MARVEL®

THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWS MAGAZINE!

# MARVEL AGE®

TM & © 1987 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.

59 FEB

ONLY 50¢

ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEW new universe™?

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

# SALICRUP'S SECTION

The Salicrup's Section in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #54 got quite a response. Basically, I thought I was saying nothing more than that calling people Marvel Zombies wasn't nice. Who would have thought it would stir up a honest-to-gosh controversy. Let me share an excerpt from a letter I received from **Jeff Deischn** . . .

Dear **Jim Salicrup**,

Congratulations! I hereby bestow upon you the highest honor a Marvel Zombie can receive: Supreme Marvel Zombie. But before you assume your awesome new responsibilities (and privileges), a few words to clear up your confusion . . .

In my experience, the term "Marvel Zombie" is not used by "well-intentioned (Well, I think they're well-intentioned, but not the way you mean) but misguided comic-book lovers"; these "name-callers" don't "hide behind the noble cause of attempting to enlighten the poor 'uninformed Marvel masses.' " "Marvel Zombie" is an intentionally derogative term used to belittle FANBOYS (That's capitalized) — those parasitic sycophants (I choose these words carefully) who must have two copies of every comic book with mutants in it that Marvel puts out, and in mylar bags. This is not what the industry is about (sure, that's just my opinion). Comic books are primarily for entertainment, and sometimes for education or mental stimulation.

The term "Marvel Zombie" was, while perhaps not carefully, aptly chosen. Zombies, no longer having a life (or mind) of their own, follow the wishes of their master. Too many people (read "FANBOYS," again capitalized) buy Marvel comics simply because they have the Marvel logo, and are told (through progaganda, such as MARVEL AGE) that they should because every issue is great!

So, *Jeff*, if you really think using such dehumanizing terms such as FANBOY and Marvel Zombies is going to help matters any, you've really lost me. Sure, anyone who is buying Marvel comics simply because we tell them to in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, and for no other reason whatsoever, has a real problem. But I really find that hard to believe. Could it be they're collecting comics for similar reasons one might collect either coins or stamps? And if they are what's wrong with that? Marvel comics are designed as entertainment, but so are stamps created to mail letters, and coins minted to be used as currency. If collecting comics as a hobby is offensive to you that's your problem. I still maintain that calling people names is just plain dumb.

'Nuff said? Not yet. Be here next issue for more on the Marvel Zombie debate!

—*Jim Salicrup*

# MARVEL AGENDA


Coming Attractions ..... 1
More Coming Attractions ..... 6
Newswatch ..... 8
Mutant Report ..... 9
Ralph Macchio ..... 10
Stan's Soapbox ..... 14
Hembeck ..... 16
Marvel Trivia Quiz ..... 18
The New New Universe ..... 19
Star Spotlight ..... 23
The Marvel Age 1976 (Part II) . 25
WOLFPACK ..... 28
Letters ..... 30



**Tom DeFalco**
Editor in Chief

**Jim Salicrup**
Editor and Design Director

**Dwight Jon Zimmerman**
Managing Editor

**Dawn Geiger**
Designer

**Sholly Fisch**
Coming Attractions

**Fred Hembeck**
Sage of Marvel Age

**Craig Anderson**, **Adam Blaustein**, **Steve Buccellato**, **Bob Budiansky**, **Bobbie Chase**, **Daniel Chichester**, **Margaret Clark**, **Don Daley**, **Daryl Edelman**, **Archie Goodwin**, **Mark Gruenwald**, **Larry Hama**, **Bob Harras**, **Glenn Herdling**, **Michael Higgins**, **Laura Hitchcock**, **Sid Jacobson**, **Terry Kavanagh**, **Ralph Macchio**, **Howard Mackie**, **Dwayne McDuffie**, **Marc McLaurin**, **Al Milgrom**, **Ann Nocenti**, **Carl Potts**, **Pat Redding**, **Mike Rockwitz**, **Marc Siry**, **Joanne Spaldo**, **David Wohl**, **Greg Wright**
Consulting Editors

**John Romita**
Art Director

**Don Perlin**
Managing Art Director

**Donald C. Hudson**, **Christopher Ivy**, **Rodney Ramos**
The Raiders

**Jim Novak**
Art/Production Coordinator

**Hector Collazo**, **Doreen Frederick**
Assistant Production Managers

**Brenda Mings**
Typesetter

**Jack Abel**
Proofreader

**Paul Becton**, **Janet Jackson**, **Greg Wright**, **George Roussos**
Colorists

**Tom Palmer**
Cover Art

**Paul Becton**, **Pat Brosseau**, **Rob Carosella**, **Harry Eisenstein**, **Vince Evans**, **Michael Heisler**, **Ken Lopez**, **Ed Magalong**, **Michael Maier**, **Eddie Marcaro**, **Bill Oakley**
Production

**Lynn Cohen**
Administrative Manager

**Virginia Romita**
Traffic Manager

**Christine Aurilia**, **Tom Fardy**, **Sue Flaxman**, **Len Kaminski**, **Michelle Tirado**, **Dan Raspler**
Friendly Assistance

**Steve Sheffler**
Rights and Permissions Editor

**Carol Kalish**
Director of Specialty Sales

**Dale Kanzler**
Assistant Direct Sales Manager/ Administrative

**Lou Bank**
Assistant Direct Sales Manager/ Customer Service

**Steve Saffel**
Promotion Manager

**Irving Forbush**
Pitt Boy


**MARVEL AGE® Vol. 1, No. 59, February, 1988. (ISSN #8750-4367)** Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price 50¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $6.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $8.00. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. MARVEL AGE (including all MARVEL titles and prominent MARVEL characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO MARVEL AGE, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Second-Class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices.**

# MARVEL®

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

*The West Coast Avengers face an enemy who possesses all their powers! Penciled by Al Milgrom and inked by Mike Machlan.*

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel**, **Epic**, **Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **March** cover date.

It's the incredible climax to the Fall of the Mutants in **THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS,** and **X-FACTOR!** The final fate of **Sin-Eater** in **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!** And the most unexpected New Universe saga of all in **THE STAR BRAND!** That's just a glimpse of the mind-bending events coming your way this month! Don't risk missing out on the fun! Tell your local comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

## Titles Shipping November 3
## On Sale November 24

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #61 — The **New Mutants** have seen the **X-Men** die! Will the **New Mutants** be the new **X-Men?** Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. 75¢.

## new universe™

☐ **PSI FORCE** #17 — Meet the New Universe's newest paranormals, **Troublemaker** and **Imprint** — they're not nice guys and they're after **Psi Force**! As they gather the information they need to destroy **Psi Force**, you'll get an inside look at the mysterious Siberian Project, learn the secret to the mystery of **Rodstvow**, and discover the identity of the **Medusa Network**! And as if that weren't enough, the Sanctuary's director, **Colby Shaw**, finally blows up! "Beg Tomorrow" is written by **Fabian Nicieza** and penciled by **Ron Lim**. 75¢.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #36 — When a tormented kid gains the power to become the electrical monster **Phreak**, he goes after his tormenters — and only **Spider-Man** can keep him from killing them! Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. 75¢.

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #30 — He's got all the powers of the **West Coast Avengers** — and he's *not* **the Super-Adaptoid**! The question isn't how the **West Coast Avengers** will beat him, but how will they survive the battle? Written and penciled by **Al Milgrom** and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE** #12 — **He-Man** no more! Can Eternia survive without its greatest hero? "Lifetime" is written by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF FUNHOUSE** #6 — Stranded in the Westfinster library during a heavy rainstorm, **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** fall through the doorway to Fantasty Land, only to end up in the middle of a **Glumm Brothers** fairy tale! It's one hilarious escapade after another filled with elves, mad witches, three-eyed ogres, candy condos, and **Mother Goose** like you've never seen her before! "Elf Service" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #16 — Where would you expect to find a showdown between **Morituri** and their alien foes, **the Horde**? Would you believe an Old West ghost town? "Grudge Match" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**; penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **THUNDERCATS** #21 — All new, not an adaptation! The **mutants** are being run ragged! Castle Plun-Darr's in ruins! And it's all **Snarf's** fault — he's given the destruction-bent baby super powers! At least, that's what they think — but the truth is even more incredible! "Father Snarf" is written by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**, penciled by **Jim Mooney**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #45 — The Corinthian magician **Caliastros** has forgotten more magic than most of the Hyborian world's sorcerers know! Having robbed **Conan's** son, **Conn**, of his memory, **Caliastros** and his fiendish allies force **Conn** to battle his friend, **Deryck**! It's up to the jester **Rufio** to save **Conn**. But the villains don't know that **Rufio** has a very special weapon — **King Conan** himself! "Caliastros" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. $1.25.

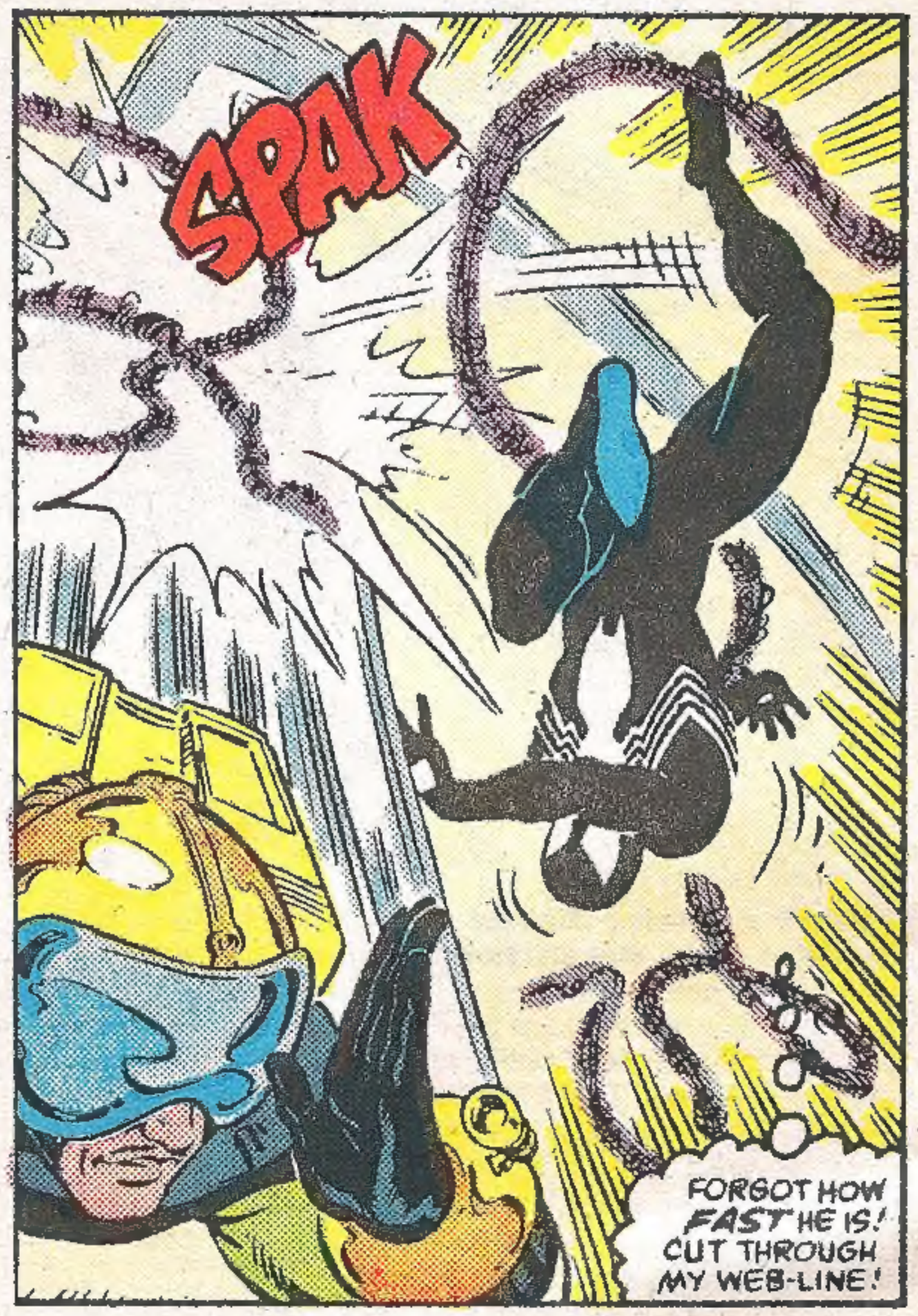
☐ **DAREDEVIL** #252 — From the pages of **X-FACTOR**: **War**, one of **Apocalypse's Horsemen**, takes on the masked assassin **Bullet** in this double-sized spectacular! And when **War's** attack turns Manhattan into a full-fledged war zone, **Daredevil** steps in! But as whose ally? "Ground Zero or The Day the Lights Went Out" is written by **Ann Nocenti** and penciled by **John Romita Jr.** 48 pages. $1.25.

☐ **SPELLBOUND** #4 — The **Spellbinder Erica** must save her brother **Roy** from the demon **Zxaxz**! But the battle with Zxaxz might just cost **Erica** the last of her sanity! "Dancing in the Dark" is written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Terry Shoemaker**, and inked by **Terry Shoemaker** and **Al Milgrom**. A bi-weekly series. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.50.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE** #3 — Re-presenting the classic tale from **G.I. JOE** #3: **Cobra's** pulling out all stops to learn the location of the **Joes'** hidden headquarters! Can the **Joes** foil **Cobra's** scheme before their greatest secret is revealed? "The Trojan Gambit" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, and inked by **Jack Abel** and **John D'Agostino**. 32 pages. $1.50.

## Titles Shipping November 10
## On Sale December 1

☐ **ALF** #1 — Featuring stories based on the hit prime-time TV series and brand new Saturday morning cartoon. When the **Tanner** family has a yard sale, **Alf's** space ship disappears . . . and winds up at the city garbage dump! What will the **Alien Life Form** do? "At Your Disposal" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 75¢.



## SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

**Adversary**—X-MEN #226
**Android**—THE AVENGERS #288
**Animator**—THE NEW MUTANTS #61
**Apocalypse**—X-FACTOR #25
**Batroc**—SOLO AVENGERS #3
**Bullet**—DAREDEVIL #252
**Celestials**—THOR #388
**Cornelius Van Lunt**—WEST COAST AVENGERS #29
**Doctor Octopus**—AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #297
**Electro**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #135
**Exitar**—THOR #338
**Freedom Force**—X-MEN #226
**Great Beasts**—ALPHA FLIGHT #55
**Hodge, Cameron**—THE NEW MUTANTS #61
**Horsemen of the Apocalypse**—X-FACTOR #25
**Kaluu**—STRANGE TALES #11
**Machete**—SOLO AVENGERS #3
**Mandroids**—IRON MAN #227
**Mr. Jip**—STRANGE TALES #11
**The Mob**—PUNISHER #6
**Night and Day**—STRANGE TALES #11
**Phreak**—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #36
**Prof. Power**—CAPTAIN AMERICA #338
**The Right**—THE NEW MUTANTS #61
**Sentinel Master Mold**—POWER PACK #35
**SENTRY**—THE AVENGERS #288
**Sin-Eater**—SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #135
**Super-Adaptoid**—THE AVENGERS #288
**Supreme Intelligence**—SILVER SURFER #8
**Tarantula (new)**—WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #36
**Tess-One**—THE AVENGERS #288
**Trick Shot**—SOLO AVENGERS #3
**Zaran**—SOLO AVENGERS #3
**Zxaxz**—SPELLBOUND #3 & #4

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #339 — **X-Factor's** foe **Famine** is on the loose, and **the Captain, D-Man, Nomad,** and **the Falcon** are all that stand in her way! "America the Scorched" is written by **Mark Gruenwald,** penciled by **Kieron Dwyer,** and inked by **Tom Morgan.** 75¢.

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #4 — Two avenging adventures for the price of one!

**Hawkeye's** been arrested for murder! Can **the Avengers'** ace archer escape **Silver Sable's** castle to prove his innocence? "The Great Escape" is written by **Tom DeFalco,** penciled by **Mark Bright,** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.**

Also: It began with **Dr. Druid** examining the **Black Knight's** mystic ebony blade. Then **Dr. Druid** was possessed by the spirit of the **Black Knight's** last descendant, who reveals the blade's bloody curse! Will the **Black Knight** obey his descendant and destroy the blade, and thus save future generations? The answer, the **Black Knight** discovers, is not as simple as it seems! Written by **Roger Stern,** penciled by **Paul Ryan,** and inked by **Bob Layton.** 75¢.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #298 — Put together an arms shipment, terrorists, and the high-rolling mercenary called **Chance,** and what have you got? You've got pretty big trouble for everyone's favorite wall-crawler in "Chance Encounter!" Written by **David Michelinie,** penciled by **Todd McFarlane,** and inked by **Bob McLeod.** 75¢.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #56 — What could be worse than **Box** going insane? How about **Box** going insane while he's as big as a space ship — and his teammates are aboard?! "Warped" is written by **Bill Mantlo** and penciled by **Jim Lee.** Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #37 — With a friend like the klutzy **Groo** the barbarian, no one needs an enemy, as anyone who's ever been around him has found out. But now, **Groo** becomes his own worst enemy! The result is a . . . well, you won't believe what happens until you see it! Created and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** with cryptography by **Mark Evanier.** An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT WINNERS BOOK** #1 — Writer **Chuck Duffy,** penciler **Mark Bagley,** inker **Doug Hazelwood,** letterer **Robin Riggs,** and colorist **P. Jeanine Pasda** won the Marvel Try-Out Contest — and here's their prize-winning story "Personals"! Why has **Doctor Octopus** taken a young woman hostage? And how can **Spider-Man** free her when he's forced to fight **Doc Ock** on his terms! 48 pages. $1.25.

☐ **VIDEO JACK** #3 — **Jack** has an opportunity others can only dream of — he can literally live a television life! But it's a life that can be anything but fun with a serial killer on the loose. This time, though, **Jack's** got America's favorite sheriff on his side! Written by **Cary Bates,** penciled by **Keith Giffen,** and inked by **Dave Hunt.** An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #8 — From THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 74–76: The secret of the mysterious clay tablet is revealed at last, as **Spider-Man** takes on **Silvermane** and **Man-Mountain Marko.** But don't think ol' webhead's going to rest any easier now that he knows the answer to the mystery. After all, the savage, serpentine **Lizard's** back in town! "If This Be Bedlam," "Death Without Warning," and "The Lizard Lives" are written by **Stan Lee,** penciled by **John Romita Sr.,** and inked by **Jim Mooney.** A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #145 — A string of bad luck begins with a battle over a stolen necklace and ends with everyone's favorite Cimmerian being sold to a school for gladiators! **Conan** is trained to fight for the amusement of the decadent mob, but the **Empress of Nemedia** has other ways she'd like the barbarian to amuse her. **Conan** faces love, death, action, and intrigue as he battles for his life against impossible odds in a "Blood Circus!" Written by **Charles Dixon,** penciled by **Gary Kwapisz,** and inked by **Ernie Chan.** A black and white Marvel Magazine. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐ **MOEBIUS #4: THE LONG TOMORROW AND OTHER STORIES Graphic Novel** — France's most famous cartoon writer/artist teams up with writer **Dan O'Bannon,** writer of the ALIEN screenplay, to create the stunning futuristic detective tale, "The Long Tomorrow." Plus, **Moebius** explores the dark side of humor in "It's A Small Universe" and "Is Man Good?" Written and illustrated by **Moebius.** 72 pages. For Mature Readers. $9.95.

## Titles Shipping November 17
## On Sale December 8

☐ **MARVEL TALES** #209 — Re-presenting the *first* appearance of the **Punisher** from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129! Will he and **Spider-Man** prove to be allies or deadly foes? "The Punisher Strikes Twice" is written by **Gerry Conway,** penciled by **Ross Andru,** and inked by **Frank Giacoia** and **Dave Hunt,** with an all-new cover by **Mike Zeck.** 75¢.

☐ **SILVER SURFER** #9 — Can even **the Elders of the Universe** destroy **Galactus?** And if they can, will the universe survive? Written by **Steve Englehart,** penciled by **Marshall Rogers,** and inked by **Joe Rubinstein.** 75¢.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #227 — The surprising conclusion to the Fall of the Mutants saga. Are the **X-Men** really dead? The world thinks so . . . and wait till you see the consequences! Written by **Chris Claremont,** penciled by **Mark Silvestri,** and inked by **Dan Green.** 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #204 — **Red Sonja** thought the treasure vault would be easy to rob. But when she accidentally releases a ravenous goblin, only **Conan** stands between his old comrade and certain death! "Goblin" is written by **James C. Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geoff Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE** #69 — The shocking reason for **Cobra's** Terror Domes and their presence in Sierra Gordo is revealed. And it's a revelation so shocking that it causes a revolution! Where are the **G.I. Joes**? Caught in the crossfire! "Into The Breach" is written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **Broderick Del Gato.** $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #60 — EXCALIBUR is the newest mutant book! Find out what makes it different from all the others! Plus: Star Spotlight on ALF, the revolutionary new **Fantastic Four**, SLEDGE HAMMER, New Talent Department, **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, and more! Direct Sales only. 50¢.

☐ **THE AVENGERS** #289 — The **Super-Adaptoid's Heavy Metal** group invades Hydro-Base. And while the **Avengers** have their hands full defending their new headquarters, the **Super-Adaptoid** faces **Kubik**, the being that grew from the reality-rending Cosmic Cube! "The Cube Root" is written by **Ralph Macchio**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

## new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7** #17 — The Clinic turns into a no-holds-barred battleground when gang war erupts amongst all the paranormals! How can **D.P. 7** survive in a complex that's become a "Madhouse!" Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 75¢.

☐ **JUSTICE** #17 — Learn about **Justice** — the man he is and the man he was! Get a rare glimpse into the past of a justice warrior, courtesy of writer **Peter David** and penciler **Lee Weeks.** 75¢.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #341 — The **Hulk** battles the monster he might have been when he meets the "Man-Bull!" Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Jim Sanders III.** 75¢.

☐ **BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY** #3 — A smashing satire of the power of publishing! The power-mad publisher of Thyme Magazine, **Rumpled Mudlock**, declares that he can make anyone famous simply by putting him on the cover of his magazine. When **Bullwinkle** walks in, the rest is publishing history as he becomes "Moose of the Year!" Written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

**Bookshelf format** is a high-quality, stiff-covered comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

**Shipping Date** refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES** #18 — The dream of dreams comes true as **Kermit** becomes "the velvet frog," king of the swinging singers. And backing him up are the incredible **Ker-mettes**, each of them with the beautiful face of **Miss Piggy!** "Kermit and the Ker-mettes" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and drawn by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE VISIONARIES** #3 — The **Visionaries** discover the fabulous Meteor Mound! Will they use its almost limitless power to transform their savage world of magic back into the technological paradise they once knew? And if they do, will they be prepared to accept the consequences? "Dicing With Destiny" is written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **SPELLBOUND** #5 — **Erica the Spellbinder** returns to New York City to rescue her brother from **Zxaxz!** The spellbinding power is corrupting **Erica** more and more! And as if that weren't enough — the greatest menace in the Universe . . . **the Other** . . . is beginning to stir! "Dancing in the Dark" is written by **Louise Simonson** and illustrated by **Terry Shoemaker**. Bi-weekly. $1.50.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #5 — Continuing our issue-by-issue guide to the adventures of everyone's favorite misunderstood mutants. With full-color cover reproductions and concise synopses of every issue. This time around: THE UNCANNY X-MEN #s 97–105, featuring the **X-Men** versus the **Sentinels**, the debut of **John Byrne** as penciler, and the birth of **Phoenix!** Compiled by **George Olshevsky**, 48 pages. Direct Sales only. Baxter paper. $2.95.

☐ **THE DEATH OF GROO Graphic Novel** — For years, everyone has been eagerly awaiting the death of **Groo**. And now **Groo's** finally dead, rejoicing fills the land! But the bumbling barbarian manages to mess even this up! Written by **Mark Evanier** with art by **Sergio Aragones**. 64 pages. $5.95.

## Titles Shipping November 24
## On Sale December 15

☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR** #312 — Is the **Black Panther** now **Doctor Doom's** ally? Is **Ms. Marvel Doctor Doom's** ally, too? And what will happen to **the Thing** and **Torch** if they are? Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott.** 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #228 — **Iron Man** goes berserk! He's turned his quest to find who stole the **Iron Man** armor technology into a war against *anyone* wearing armor! When he attacks the fifty armored **Guardsmen** at the U.S. government's Vault maximum security prison, he finds himself facing an unexpected foe — **Steve Rogers, the Captain!** Written by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Bob Layton.** 75¢.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #16 — **Sergeant Polkow's** being rotated out of his unit. But before anyone can think about who'll replace him, everyone's going to have to survive a not-so-friendly visit to some Vietnamese villages! "Good for the Goose" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **John Beatty**. 75¢.

☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #136 — Witness the final fate of the **Sin-Eater** as **Spider-Man** wages an epic battle against the electrifying **Electro** in "Sin-ister!" Written by **Peter David** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. 75¢.

☐ **THE PUNISHER** #7 — **The Punisher's** foray into the world of toxic waste leads him into a life-and-death shootout high above the city! "Wild Rose" is written by **Mike Baron** and illustrated by **David Ross**. 75¢.

## new universe™

☐ **THE STAR BRAND** #12 — **Ken Connell** has a wild rematch with the mysterious **Old Man**, and the true nature of the White Event is revealed! When **Ken** tries to give up the Star Brand . . . well, we can't tell you what happens, but we can say this: the New Universe will never be the same! Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. 75¢.

☐ **THOR** #389 — Talk about internal struggles — **Thor's** having a doozy! He's fighting for his life inside the gigantic **Celestial Exitar**! And **Balder's** got his hands full, too — for the Egyptian gods are launching their war against Asgard! "When The Thunder Falls" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #26 — As the Fall of the Mutants saga reaches its climax, **X-Factor** relinquishes its mutant hunter pose and sets off in a bold new direction with a brand new look! Written by **Louise Simonson** with art by **Walt Simonson** and **Bob Wiacek**. 75¢.

☐ **CARE BEARS** #15 — See the most amazing turnabout in **Care Bears** history as the **Care Bears** become grumpy! All except **Grumpy Bear**, that is — he suddenly has the sweetest disposition imaginable! It's a fast and funny mystery featuring the **Care Bears's** most unfavorite nemeses, **No-Heart** and **Beastly**, complete with a super climax. "The Great Grumpy Epidemic" is written by **Dave Polter**, penciled by **Howie Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #19 — Re-presenting from **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #113: It's **Magneto's** strangest revenge yet, as he imprisons the **X-Men** and makes them as helpless as infants! "Showdown" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Also: A new story written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.00.

☐ **ELFQUEST** #32 — At last! It's the finale to the saga of the **Wolfriders**, as the **Elves** uncover the secrets of Blue Mountain in the conclusion of "Quest's End!" Written by **Wendy** and **Richard Pini** and drawn by **Wendy Pini**. An Epic Comic. $1.00.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS** #38 — **The Transformers** war on Earth is about to really heat up — for here come **the Headmasters**! Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. $1.00.

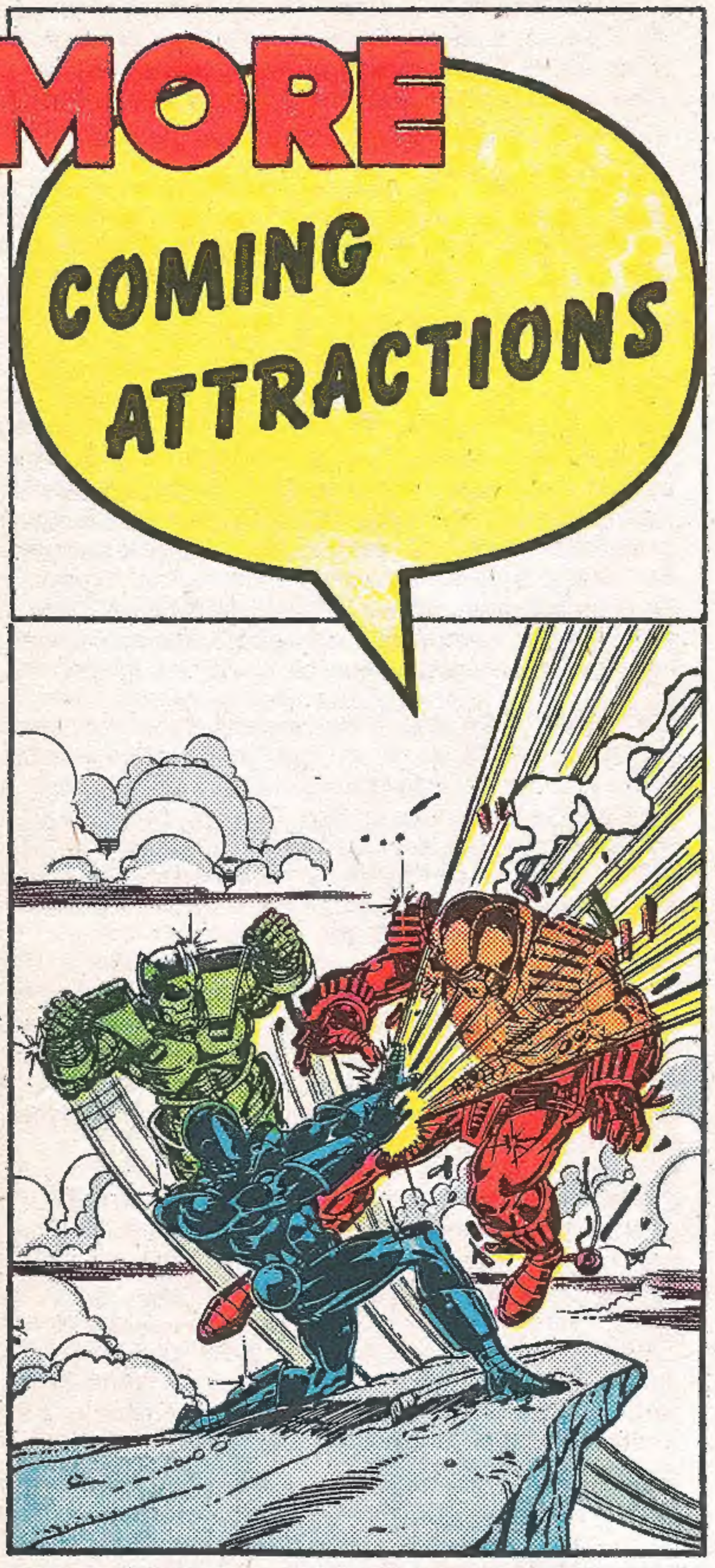
☐ **TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE** #8 — From **TRANSFORMERS** #15: Meet **Donny Finkelberg**. He planned to become the **Robotmaster**, by when he gets caught in a battle between the **Autobots** and **Decepticons**, he ends up as a hostage! "I, Robotmaster" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Don Perlin**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. And from **TRANSFORMERS** #16: A gang of teenagers finds a car and decides to take it for a joyride. But there's no joy in the situation when the "car" turns out to be **Bumblebee** in disguse! "Bumblebee's Last Stand" is written by **Len Kaminski**, penciled by **Graham Nolan**, and inked by **Tom Morgan**. A Marvel Digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #10 — Re-presenting from the original **SAVAGE TALES** #s 4 and 5! **Conan** battles warriors, sorcery, and even gods in two more classic tales! "Night of the Dark God" is written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **Gil Kane**, and inked by **Neal Adams** and "The Secret of Skull Rivers" is written by **Roy Thomas** and **John Jakes**, penciled by **Jim Starlin**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A black and white Marvel Magazine. $2.00.

☐ **BLOOD Limited Series** #3 — **Blood** thought being a vampire was pretty horrifying. But things get even worse when he becomes . . . a Yuppie! "Theophany" is written by **J. Marc DeMatteis** and painted by **Kent Williams**. An Epic Comics Limited Series. Bookshelf format. For mature readers. $2.95.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Trade Paperback** #8 — Everything you ever wanted to know about everyone at the end of the alphabet including **Wolverine, Wonder Man, the X-Men**, and alien races! Plus the beginning of the Book of the Dead. Written by **Peter Sanderson** and illustrated by **Murphy Anderson, John Bolton, John Byrne, Ron Frenz, Jackson Guice, Bob Layton, Todd McFarlane, Jerry Ordway, Paul Smith, Mike Zeck**, and many more! Inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. 128 pages. $6.95.

*The Black Panther is back in the pages of THE FANTASTIC FOUR!*




## Titles Shipping December

**DAREDEVIL** #253 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
**NEW MUTANTS** #62 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
**PSI FORCE** #18 — by **Nicieza, Lim,** and **De la Rosa.**
**THE PUNISHER** #8 — by **Baron, Portacio,** and **Williams.**
**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #37 — by **Owsley, Geiger,** and **Williams.**
**WEST COAST AVENGERS** #31 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #10 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
**THUNDERCATS** #22 — by **Rose, Delbo,** and **Simons.**
**TALES OF G.I. JOE** #4 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #17 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
**ALPHA FLIGHT** #57 — by **Mantlo.**
**CAPTAIN AMERICA** #340 — by **Gruenwald, O'Dwyer,** and **Hunt.**
**SOLO AVENGERS** #5 — by **DeFalco, Bright,** and **Wagner.**
**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #299 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane.**
**STRANGE TALES** #13 — by **Austin, Blevins, Wiacek, Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
**GROO THE WANDERER** #38 — by **Aragones** with **Evanier.**
**HEATHCLIFF** #22 — by **DeCesare, Kremer,** and **Roettcher.**
**POWER PACK** #36 — by **L. Simonson, Bogdanove,** and **Barta.**
**STAR COMICS MAGAZINE** #9
**SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #146 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
**MARVEL AGE** #61
**AVENGERS** #290 — by **Macchio, Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
**D.P. 7** #18 — by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Bulanadi.**
**INCREDIBLE HULK** #342 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
**JUSTICE** #18 — by **David.**
**MARVEL TALES** #210 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Austin, Mellor,** and **Albelo.**
**SILVER SURFER** #10 — by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
**THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #228 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
**AIR RAIDERS** #6 — by **Mackie** and **Jones.**
**CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #205 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
**G.I. JOE** #70 — by **Hama, Wagner,** and **Emberlin.**
**FLINTSTONE KIDS** #5 — by **Gallagher, Colon,** and **Milgrom.**
**FOOFUR** #5 — by **Gallagher, Brown,** and **Roettcher.**
**SILVERHAWKS** #5 — by **Perry, Witherby,** and **Frederick.**
**MARSHAL LAW** #3 — by **Mills** and **O'Neil.**
**FANTASTIC FOUR** #313 — by **Englehart, Pollard,** and **Sinnott.**
**IRON MAN** #229 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
**THE 'NAM** #17 — by **Murray, Vansant,** and **Isherwood.**
**THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #137 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema.**
**CLASSIC X-MEN** #20 — by **Claremont, Byrne,** and **Bolton.**
**THOR** #290 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
**X-FACTOR** #27 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
**MADBALLS** #9 — by **Gallagher, Post,** and **Edelman.**
**THE TRANSFORMERS** #39
**ALIEN LEGION** #3
**G.I. JOE COMICS MAGAZINE** #9
**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE AVENGERS** #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
**CONAN SAGA** #11 — by **Thomas** and **Buscema.**
**BLOOD** #4 — by **DeMatteis** and **Williams.**

## Titles Shipping January

**DAREDEVIL** #254 — by **Nocenti, Romita Jr.,** and **Williamson.**
**NEW MUTANTS** #63 — by **L. Simonson, Blevins,** and **Austin.**
**PSI FORCE** #19 — by **Nicieza** and **Lim.**
**THE PUNISHER** #9 — by **Baron.**
**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #38 — by **Owsley** and **Geiger.**

**WEST COAST AVENGERS** #32 — by **Englehart, Milgrom,** and **Machlan.**
**THUNDERCATS** #23
**TALES OF G.I. JOE** #5 — by **Hama** and **Trimpe.**
**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #18 — by **Gillis** and **Anderson.**
**ALPHA FLIGHT** #58 — by **Mantlo.**
**CAPTAIN AMERICA** #341 — by **Gruenwald, O'Dwyer,** and **Hunt.**
**SOLO AVENGERS** #6 — by **DeFalco, Bright, Wagner** and others.
**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #300 — by **Michelinie** and **McFarlane.**
**STRANGE TALES** #14 — by **Austin, Blevins, Wiacek, Gillis, Shoemaker,** and **Emberlin.**
**GROO THE WANDERER** #39 — by **Evanier** with **Aragones.**
**HEATHCLIFF** #23
**POWER PACK** #37 — by **L. Simonson, Bogdanove,** and **Barta.**
**SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #147 — by **Dixon, Kwapisz,** and **Chan.**
**MARVEL AGE** #62
**AVENGERS** #291 — by **Macchio, J. Buscema,** and **Palmer.**
**D.P. 7** #19 — by **Gruenwald, Ryan,** and **Bulanadi.**
**INCREDIBLE HULK** #342 — by **David** and **McFarlane.**
**JUSTICE** #19 — by **David** and **Weeks.**
**MARVEL TALES** #211
**SILVER SURFER** #11 — by **Englehart, Rogers,** and **Rubinstein.**
**THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #229 — by **Claremont, Silvestri,** and **Green.**
**CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #206 — by **Owsley, Semeiks,** and **Isherwood.**
**CONAN SAGA** #12 — by **Thomas** and **J. Buscema.**
**FANTASTIC FOUR** #314 — by **Englehart, Pollard,** and **Sinnott.**
**IRON MAN** #230 — by **Michelinie, Bright,** and **Layton.**
**THE 'NAM** #18 — by **Murray** and **Vansant.**
**THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #138 — by **Conway** and **S. Buscema.**
**CLASSIC X-MEN** #21 — by **Claremont, Byrne, Austin,** and **Bolton.**
**THOR** #391 — by **DeFalco** and **Frenz.**
**X-FACTOR** #28 — by **L. Simonson, W. Simonson,** and **Wiacek.**
**THE TRANSFORMERS** #40 — by **Budiansky.**
**MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE** #13 — by **Caragonne** and **Wilson.**
**HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE** #7
**SPELLBOUND** #6 — by **L. Simonson, Shoemaker,** and **Potts.**
**ALF** #2 — by **Gallagher, Manak,** and **Roettcher.**
**VIDEO JACK** #4 — by **Bates** and **Giffen.**
**SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #9
**MUPPET BABIES** #19
**THE VISIONARIES** #4
**BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY** #14
**MARVEL FANFARE** #38
**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #6 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
**THE STAR BRAND** #13 — by **Byrne** and **Palmer.**
**CARE BEARS** #16
**THE TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE** #9

*Look out for super-powered Hordians in STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI!*

# NEWSWATCH

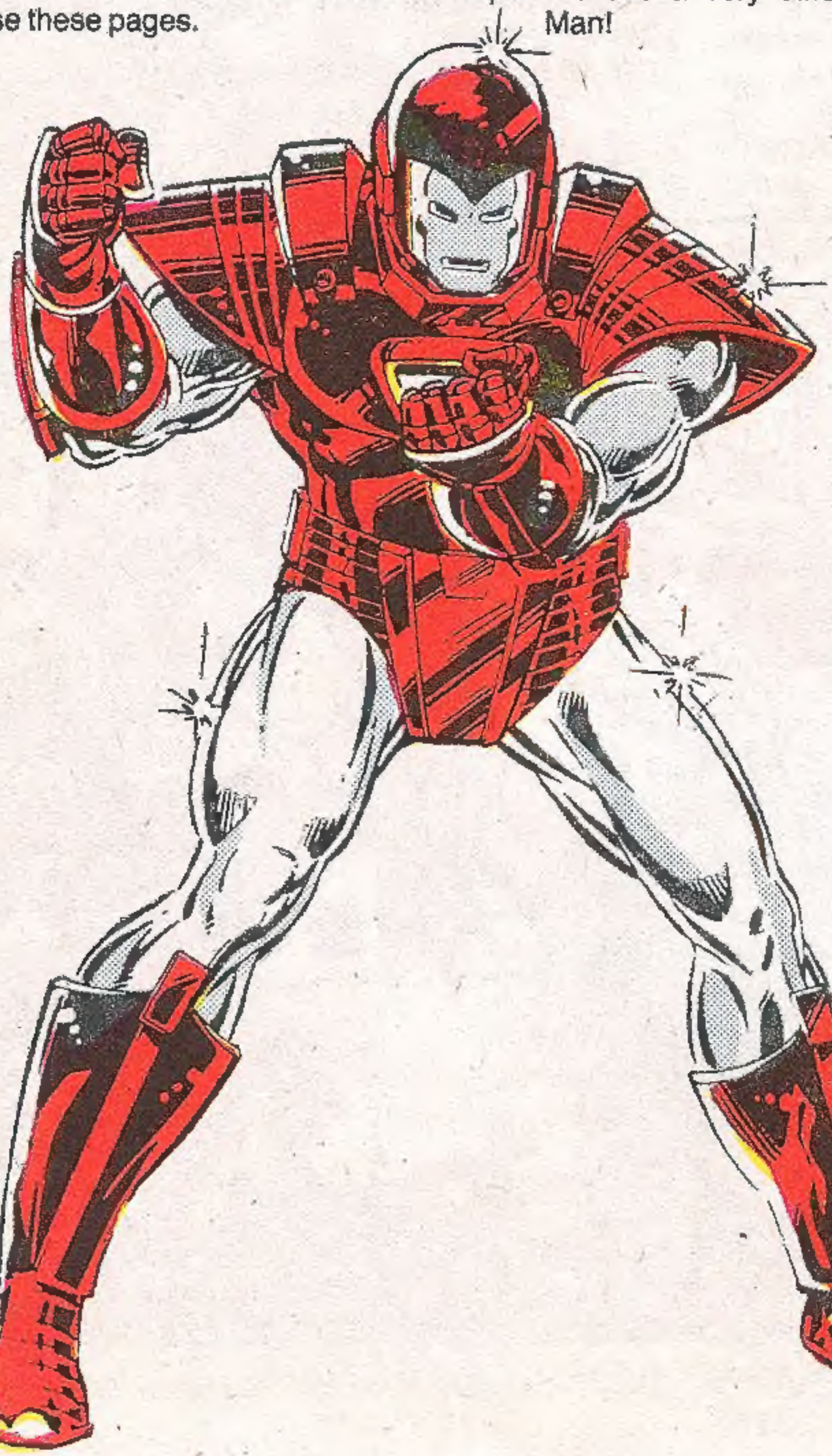
## ART TO KIRBY . . . IRON MAN AT WAR WITH EVERYONE . . . A MARVEL-OUS FRENCH VISIT

**ITEM:** Artist **Jack Kirby** who, with **Stan Lee**, created **the Fantastic Four**, **the Incredible Hulk**, **the Mighty Thor**, the original **X-Men** and co-founded the Marvel Age of comics recently received over 2,100 pages of his original art.

When Stan dubbed him "King" Kirby in the sixties, it was to acknowledge just how important Jack was. It was Jack's imagination which helped give the Marvel Universe its cosmic scope, its wealth of heroes and villains, and it was his style of art and storytelling that were the foundation of what would be called the Marvel style.

We are all happy to be able to return to one of the founders of the Marvel Universe these pages.

**ITEM: Iron Man's** mad! And he's launching an all-out vendetta against every armored warrior in the Marvel Universe, villain *and* hero! The reason why is that he suspects them all of possessing top secret Iron Man technology stolen by the **Spymaster**. Unfortunately, Iron Man's "Armor War" will force **Tony Stark** to fire him, throw him into a head-on battle with his friend **the Captain**, and jeopardize his membership in **the West Coast Avengers**. And that's just the beginning of the problems in store for Shell-Head courtesy of writer **David Michelinie**, penciler **Mark Bright**, and co-plotter and inker **Bob Layton**. The war hits in IRON MAN #226 and before it ends, expect to see a very different Iron Man!



**ITEM:** France is a country famous for many things, among them fashion, food, and wine. And as MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE managing editor **Dwight Jon Zimmerman** discovered during his recent vacation there, it's also the home of one of Marvel's French publishers, Editions LUG located in Lyon. Dwight met Editor in Chief **Claude Vistel** who graciously took time out of her busy schedule to show him around and talk about Marvel comics and the fun and challenge of translating Marvel comics into French. Afterward, they went to a restaurant where Dwight discovered why the chefs in Lyon are regarded as the best in France. As you might expect, Dwight had a great time talking to the French bullpenners and discovering that Marvel comics are just as enthusiastically received in France as they are here. Dwight had such a great time that when he returned, he thought of changing the name of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE to LE MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

## THE TOP TEN

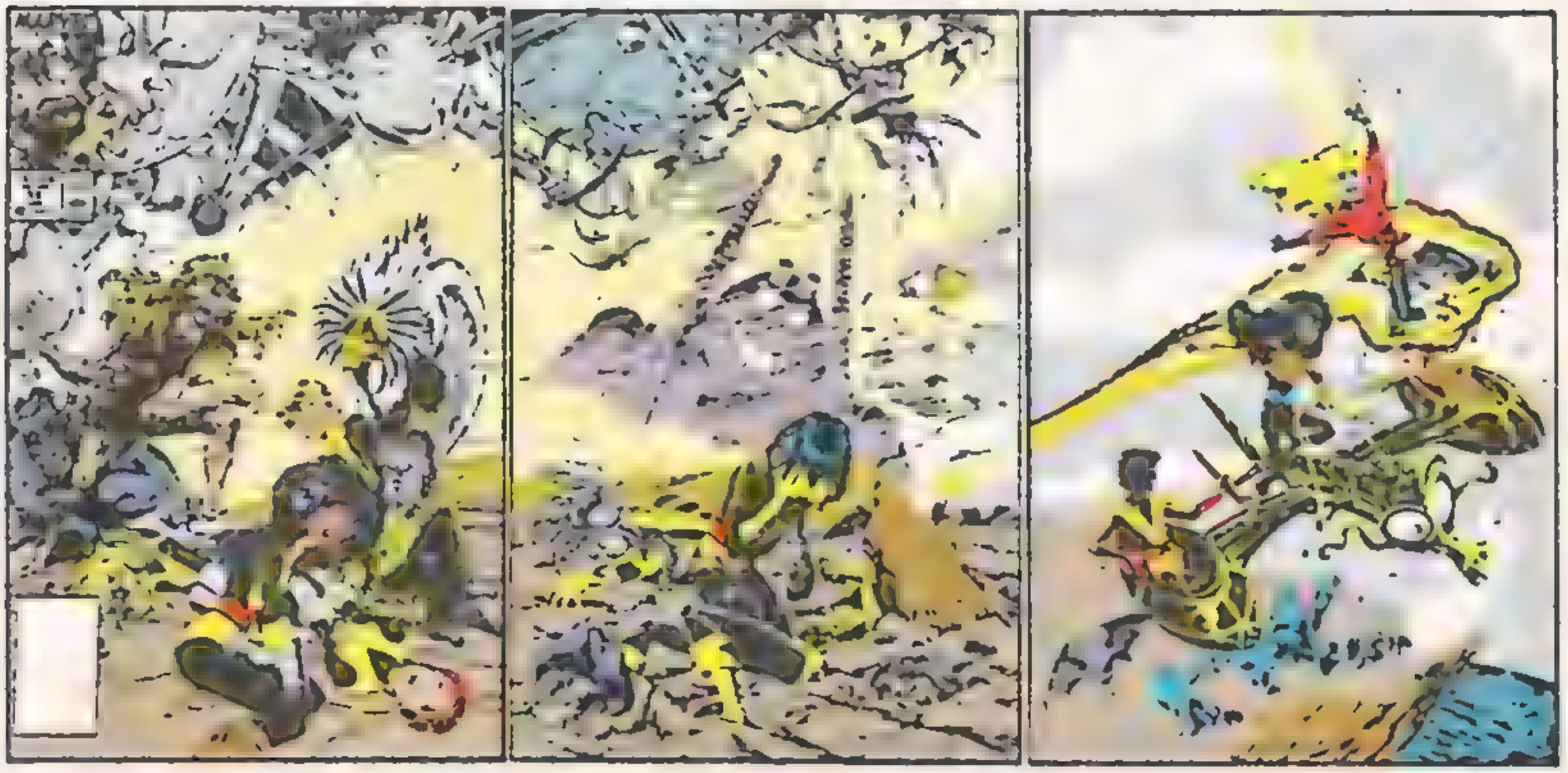
Once again, it's Top Ten time! This month's list of the ten best-selling Marvel comics in the Direct Sales market is from July, 1987. And it's reliably compiled by our sharp-eyed Director of Specialty Sales, **Carol Kalish.**

1 — **X-MEN ANNUAL #11**
2 — **X-MEN #223**
3 — **THE PUNISHER #4**
4 — **X-FACTOR #22**
5 — **SILVER SURFER #5**
6 — **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #294**
7 — **THE 'NAM #12**
8 — **G.I. JOE #65**
9 — **THE NEW MUTANTS #57**
10 — **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #32**

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 2 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 13

# A TRIO OF TRIPTYCHS



The artists of the X-MEN, X-FACTOR, and THE NEW MUTANTS have designed the three covers of "The Fall of the Mutants" trilogy in their respective titles to form dynamic panoramas.

The covers of X-MEN #s 225—227 are penciled by Marc Silvestri and inked by Dan Green, THE NEW MUTANTS #s 59 -61 are penciled by Bret Blevins and Terry Austin, and X FACTOR #s 25–26 are penciled by Walter Simonson and inked by Bob Wiacek.

Each triptych will soon be a Marvel Press poster, but why wait? You can start collecting these masterpieces right now!

## MARVEL MASTERWORKS starring the original X-MEN and others!

A Christmas highlight for mutant-lovers is the third volume in the high-quality hardcover MARVEL MASTERWORK series which re-presents the first ten issues of THE UNCANNY X-MEN. On sale next month, the 240-page volume book contains the adventures of the original X-Men by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby and inked by Sol Brodsky, Paul Reinman, and Chic Stone. It's price is $29.95 and in addition to the stories, it will feature a new introduction by Stan Lee, and bio graphies of Stan and Jack Kirby.

Previous volumes re-presented THE FANTASTIC FOUR and THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN classic adventures. And each is a sure-fire stocking stuffer!

"It's Genetic"
by Kyle Baker
My, what a day. What a lovely day.
The sun is shining, not a cloud in the sky.
What a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful...
Wolverine is about to get kicked in the groin.

THE MARVEL® AGE INTERVIEW

# IT CAME FROM NEW JERSEY!, or, The Life and Times of Ralph Macchio

*As a reader of Marvel Comics, you must have often wondered about* ***Ralph Macchio****. You've seen his name listed as the editor of such great long-running Marvel series as THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAREDEVIL, and THE FANTASTIC FOUR, as well as D.P. 7, THE ETERNALS, SQUADRON SUPREME, MEPHISTO, WHAT IF, MICRONAUTS, MASTER OF KUNG FU, and many others. You've seen him credited as writer or co-writer of SOLOMON KANE, THOR, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE, BLACK WIDOW stories in MARVEL FANFARE and BIZARRE ADVENTURES, and adaptations of films such as DUNE and HOUSE II. A busy man, you think, with many impressive credits. How, then, you wonder, can he possibly have time to star in those KARATE KID MOVIES?*

*Well, if we've told you once, we've told you a thousand times: our Ralph Macchio is not that* ***Ralph Macchio****. Our Ralph refers to that johnny-come-lately version as "the fake Ralph Macchio, running around, living off my reputation. I am the one, true, and only Ralph Macchio." That Brat Pack Ralph Macchio may think he's famous, but was he ever featured on a* ***Sienkiewicz****-painted DAZZLER cover? Has his family's business been immortalized in print the way the real Ralph's has been? (Our Ralph's family owns a moving company called MacRay, whose trucks often turn up in Marvel stories — and once even in one at DC! No wonder Ralph ended up as editor of that truckers' delight,* U.S. 1.*)*

*The Real Ralph Macchio is a second generation comics professional. His late uncle,* ***Wayne Boring****, was the principal artist on SUPERMAN in the comic books and the comic strip from the late 1940s through the early 1960s. And Ralph himself, who was hired as an assistant editor at Marvel in 1976, has been a member of the editorial staff here longer than anyone else now on staff. Strange as it may seem to those who know him, Ralph is now The Grand Old Man of Marvel Comics.*

*Thus, it is long past time that MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE mavens got a good look at Ralph Macchio, and found out just who and what he is, especially since he is settling in for a six-issue run as scripter of THE AVENGERS. So, armed with this assignment, this reporter took Ralph and two witnesses, his fellow editor* **Carl Potts** *and Bullpenner* **Veronica Lawlor-Carlin***, out to a sumptuous lunch at the Sumptuary Restaurant where this interview was conducted. Those readers who expect this to be a normal interview should be warned: it is not without reason that one of Ralph's friends has called him "the* **Don Rickles** *of comics." In talking with Ralph, no one is safe.*

## AN INCOMPLETE LIST OF THE GREATEST MACCHIO FOOBARS OF OUR TIME

Everyone makes mistakes in his rise to greatness in his chosen profession, and once that greatness is achieved, then the errors of his youth fade into obscurity. But not Ralph's. His blunders have become legendary at Marvel, and have a certain indefinable greatness all their own.

For a time, back in his days as an assistant editor, Ralph acted as the East Coast liaison for **Roy Thomas**, who lived on the West Coast and was then editing the CONAN comics and magazines. "As liaison I was supposed to oversee the proofreading of the books on the East Coast," Ralph explains. And he did a good job, really. But when mistakes did get past him, they were beauts.

"There was an incident in which a page from one of our black and white magazines, PLANET OF THE APES — the last page of an article on "How to Walk like an Ape" — somehow found its way into the end of a CONAN pin-up gallery in SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. I could tell Roy was not too pleased when smoke began to come out of the phone.

"There was also an issue of SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN where Conan is running up or down these stairs and referring to some woman who had betrayed him, and saying something like, 'Aha, **Miriella** has turned traitress at last!' Now, that balloon needed a little bit of production work or something, and when it finally appeared in print, it said, 'Aha! Miriella has turned waitress at last!' "

So, remember, readers, if Ralph Macchio could survive making these mistakes, and still not be embarrassed by them, then humanity must have the potential to survive anything. But then again, Ralph comes by his survivor instincts naturally: he's from New Jersey.

## EDITING THE CLASSICS

Now, it is true that not everything that Ralph has worked on as an assistant editor or as a full editor has been one of Marvel's greatest successes. "TEAM AMERICA definitely set comics on its ear," Ralph notes ironically. "Then there was CRYSTAR, THE CRYSTAL WARRIOR, a glimmering, shimmering fantasy that lasted twelve issues. It was intended as a Limited Series from the start, and everything I do seems to end up as a Limited Series. Now, if I can make THE FANTASTIC FOUR a Limited Series, my mission in comics will be fulfilled."

Now, indeed, Ralph is the editor of four of Marvel's longest-running classic series: CAPTAIN AMERICA, DAREDEVIL, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, and THOR.

Having only recently taken over the editorship of CAPTAIN AMERICA, Macchio has teamed its longtime writer, **Mark Gruenwald**, up with a new penciler, comics industry newcomer **Kieron Dwyer**. Mark and Ralph frequently teamed up themselves as co-writers in the past on THOR and MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE. "Cap is a character that Mark has been writing for three or four years now, and he says he's just beginning to understand what the character's about. I think to truly understand the character Mark went back to those classic Marvel Comics animated cartoons of the 1960s where everything seemed to move but the characters, and he studied the theme song: 'When Captain America throws his mighty shield, / All those / Who choose / To oppose / His shield / Must yield.' Mark approached me in all seriousness and said a certain insight had hit him while listening to that theme song." As for Cap's new artist, Ralph says, "Kieron Dwyer is going to be a name to watch over the next year. For one thing, so I can learn how to spell it."

For DAREDEVIL Ralph has teamed up writer **Ann Nocenti** and penciler **John Romita Jr.** Speaking more seriously [if only for the moment] than he did about the CAPTAIN AMERICA team, Ralph says, "I think Ann shares **Frank Miller's** view of **Daredevil** as a very compassionate individual, a guy not prone to knocking heads if he doesn't have to. Ann is someone who reminds me, more than anyone else, of **Alan Moore.** Not in terms of having a florid writing style or in physical appearance: she's shorter than Alan and her beard is better trimmed. I think Ann approaches comics differently from anyone else. She didn't grow up on super heroes. She brings something unique to comics, a fresh perspective."

Then there is THE FANTASTIC FOUR, written by **Steve Englehart,** and now penciled by **Keith Pollard. Crystal** and **Ms. Marvel** are now substituting for **Mister Fantastic** and **the Invisible Woman.** "We've decided to shake up the team," Ralph says, "and I think that it took a lot of courage on the part of Steve Englehart to do this, because the Fantastic Four with the four original members was a very successful formula." Macchio and Englehart plan to mix brand new characters with longtime members of the FF's cast, and Ralph predicts, "I think people will see the new team is interesting," with its two new members, "and that it's worth following. And really, could what we're doing be more radical than turning Thor into a frog?"

And on THOR, **Walter Simonson** and **Sal Buscema** have left after a long, successful run on the series, to be succeeded by **Tom DeFalco** and **Ron Frenz,** who have big plans for the book, involving the virtually omnipotent **Celestials** and wars between the Asgardians and the ancient Egyptian and Celtic gods. Ralph is pleased that DeFalco and Frenz are finding their own direction for the series rather than trying to duplicate Walter's inimitable work. "I think Ron has a very different artistic outlook than Walt or Sal. I'm very happy, because they're not doing shades of Walt Simonson."

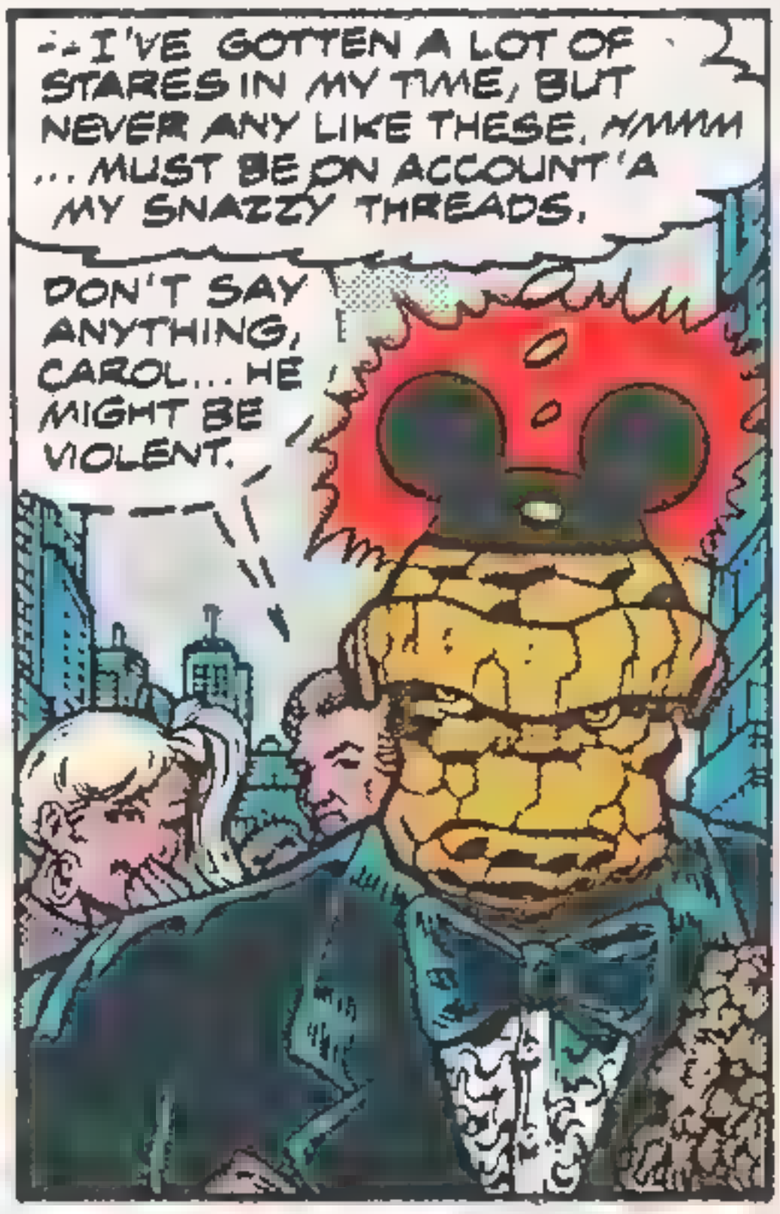
## WRITING: THE MACCHIO TOUCH

Perhaps the major reason for inflicting a Ralph Macchio interview on the MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE followers at this time is that Ralph is making his return as a writer of Marvel Universe characters with a short run of issues of THE AVENGERS preparatory to Walter Simonson's takeover as the book's new regular writer several issues from now.

"It's been a long time since I've written a Marvel character. There were several reasons why I didn't want to write a Marvel character for a number of years. However, Mark Gruenwald pushed me into writing a number of issues of THE AVENGERS which he's plotting, and that I've been very happy with. In fact, we're even stretching out the storyline, which is about the **Super-Adaptoid** and his attempt to gain ultimate power.

"I think this is the first time I've worked as a writer with **John Buscema,** and it's great to see how good he really is. He tells the story: he makes my job easy. John is, without a doubt, the finest artist in comics. There is no one who is more professional or better than John. He is one of the few people who can combine incredible talent and a lack of ego. John is very

SOON, AS BEN HITS THE STREETS...
IS THAT THE THING? WHAT'S HE WEARING ON HIS HEAD?
BOY, THE RUBBER-NECKERS ARE OUT IN FORCE TONIGHT. FUNNY THING, THOUGH--


--I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF STARES IN MY TIME, BUT NEVER ANY LIKE THESE. HMMM ... MUST BE ON ACCOUNT 'A MY SNAZZY THREADS.
DON'T SAY ANYTHING, CAROL... HE MIGHT BE VIOLENT.

deceptive, because when you talk to him, he can make it appear he's just the guy next door, but he actually has a vast art background, and spent a lot of time in Europe studying the masterpieces there.

"Then there's **Tom Palmer**, who makes the finished product on THE AVENGERS look just fabulous.

"For someone like me who grew up reading comics, working on something like SPIDER-MAN, THOR, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, or THE AVENGERS is like working on history. So you should approach it reverentially.

"I think we've got something in these AVENGERS issues that Walt Simonson can play with when he takes over. I look forward to what Walt's going to be doing, because I think he'll make THE AVENGERS better than it's been for a long time."

Asked to name his favorite stories from his own body of work, Ralph replies, "I was extremely pleased with issues 2 and 4 of SOLOMON KANE. THOR #300 because it was the culmination of all the crazy continuity stuff that Mark Gruenwald and I were interested in. Another story I really liked was the BLACK WIDOW story I did with **Paul Gulacy** in BIZARRE ADVENTURES because it was a different kind of writing for me, so it was a challenge.

"Also," he adds, "I'd say the work that was the very peak of my career was the adaptation I wrote of the film METEOR. **Sean Connery**'s greatest role." It's amazing how Ralph can shift gears like this while keeping a perfectly straight face.

## THE ART OF MIMINALIST EDITING

Ralph is very happy to have worked for extended periods with Walter Simonson on THOR and with Frank Miller on DAREDEVIL. "When Walt approached me with the idea of turning Thor into a frog, I thought, why not? Walt had never been wrong, and it turned out to be a big success. I think Walt is one of the most talented and successful people who's ever been in comics." As for Miller, Ralph says, "Frank is someone with incredible talent and ability whose potential is only being realized now. Frank's work on DAREDEVIL both times out has been, I think, the finest work of his career.

"Frank and Walt are guys who, when they take over a project, my work as an editor becomes minimal, because they know exactly what they're doing. They check with me on things, but it's not as if I have to give them directions on anything. They know what they're doing."

So, this reporter asked, what does Ralph think is the proper role of an editor. On contemplating Ralph as an editor, Carl Potts immediately fell into convulsions of laughter.

"Put down that Carl Potts is in hysterics," Ralph instructed.

Emerging from hysterics, Carl said, "Print his reviews for the last five years."

"Put that down," Ralph agreed. "That's good. The proper role of an editor is to get the very best people in comics to do their very best work so I can goof off to the max. That's the best you can do. You get the very best people, you leave them alone, provided they don't contradict who and what the characters are in terms of the way you see them. You've got to let them go to town and encourage them. You oversee every aspect of things, but what you want to do is get the books to the point where they oversee themselves, so you can come in late, take days off, and spend most of the day hanging around talking to people."

## LIFE OF THE PARTY

As the Marvel working day draws to a close, many staffers and freelancers congregate in the Macchio office for relief and entertainment. Undoubtedly they will hear Ralph perform one or more examples from his enormous repertoire of impressions of the leading lights of comicdom. He seemingly can do anybody, male or female, short or tall.

Explaining how he creates an impression of someone, the Man of a Thousand Voices days, "It's more than a voice; it's an attitude you have to

assume that reminds people of that person."

Then, in the summertime, when Marvel closes down at 1 P.M. every Friday, on those few weeks when Thor doesn't get fed up with Ralph and make it rain, Ralph leads an assortment of Marvel employees off to his swimming pool at his home. "It's in a quiet area of New Jersey, the Garden State. We get an entire contingent of Marvel people, we swim all afternoon, we go to dinner, we see a movie, and then they look to bum a ride off me back to Manhattan. That has become sort of a tradition here at Marvel Comics."

The ultimate Macchio extravaganza, however, is his annual expedition to the island of St. Thomas in the Caribbean, which first took place five years ago. "Around 1982 there was pressure at Marvel on me to come in before noon, to stay till 5:00 at least three days a week. This was beginning to get to me. Somehow they were giving me the impression that I actually had a staff job. So I decided I was going to take a break." Hence the first trip to St. Thomas.

"So I took a number of my buddies at Marvel, including John Romita Jr., **Bob Budiansky**, and Bill Sienkiewicz. We took John because he's a very outgoing guy, who knows all about the night life everywhere in the world.

"I take Bob Budiansky with me everywhere I go. I keep him in my pocket on ski trips," which Ralph also goes on every year. (His harrowing, death-defying maneuvers on the ski slopes are matched only by his driving techniques on the highways of New Jersey, but that's another story.) "Because Bob reads maps. If I'm lost on top of a mountain, Bob will pull out the map and get us down safely. Bob knows all about the cuisine on the islands. He can hail a cab in six languages. There's nothing that Bob can't do.

"Bill Sienkiewicz and I are very close. We go on trips together all the time. I was one of the first people at Marvel to work with him. Along with **Rich Marschall** I gave him the MOON KNIGHT series. I encouraged him along the way. And he's certainly made several incredible quantum leaps in his talent, and that's something where you can encourage a guy, but he's got to have it in him. Bill had it in him, and now it's all over the pages.

"I also took Ann Nocenti from Dimension X with us, and **Bob Harras**, the Human Lobster" on some of these trips, as well as his fellow editor Carl Potts, and others. "I tried to get a diverse group. I tried to get people together who I somehow figured wouldn't get along, and see if I could use my enormous persuasive talents to have them not kill each other over a week and a half period. This is a key to being a good editor. It was like training to be an editor."

## THE TWO JACKS

Two of the most influential figures on the Macchio Aesthetics have been **Jack "King" Kirby**, co-creator of the Fantastic Four, the **Hulk**, and Captain America, and **Jackie "The Great One" Gleason**, creator of **Ralph Kramden**, **Reginald van Gleason III**, and the **Poor Soul**.

Ralph values Kirby "for his imagination and his concepts, the characters, the world of Marvel that he and Stan were responsible for. It opened my mind when I was a kid. (Laughs) It's never closed since."

Ralph's fascination with the classic Gleason TV series "The Honeymooners" is legendary at Marvel. This reporter has seen Ralph watch a "Honeymooners" episode (at Chris Claremont's apartment, after Ralph had driven him home), speaking much of the dialogue along with the actors, and still laughing at every joke. "There isn't a life experience that you can't nail down exactly with a few lines from a 'Honeymooners' episode." Ralph sees "'The Honeymooners' Ralph Kramden and his friend **Ed Norton** as reflecting two different attitudes towards life. "Norton had a 'take life as it is' attitude, whereas Ralph was striving for greatness all the time, to hit the high note on his cornet. Norton just picked up the cornet and played whatever he wanted to play. Ralph represented the other side of human nature, that's always striving."

It is said, by the way, that Ralph has a master's degree in English literature, and he has been heard occasionally to quote **Aeschylus** and **Shakespeare**. But nowhere near as much as he quotes Kramden and Norton.

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

So who is Ralph Macchio, anyway? Is he Mighty Marvel's ultimate survivor, a humble Norton who continues onward, miraculously untouched and unharmed while editors, assistants, and his own books fall to their dooms all around him?

Or is he instead Ralph Kramden turned into **Richard III**, striving upward, cutting down all rivals as he charges like an unstoppable juggernaut toward his ultimate goal: becoming the Grand High Exalted Mystic Ruler of the entire Marvel Universe? Are Tom DeFalco and Mark Gruenwald doomed to fall before this Scourge of Marveldom?

Those of you who dig this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE out of the back issue bins of comics shops ten years from now will know the answers to these questions. But for us, here in 1987, there are no easy answers: the Macchio mystery remains impenetrable, much like the smog of his native state.

Pehaps the solution to the enigma can be gleaned from Ralph's philosophy of the nature of existence, derived from one of the great sages of the Twentieth Century. "What I've learned from Norton more than anything," Ralph declares, "is don't strive for anything: just take life as it comes. Relax and enjoy yourself; shoot some pool; join the Raccoon Lodge. This is my advice to everyone who's ever lived. That's what I would like to leave them with."

—*Peter Sanderson*

SOLOMON KANE TM and © 1985 and 1987 Alia Ray Ruykendall.

# STAN'S SOAPBOX

You won't believe it!

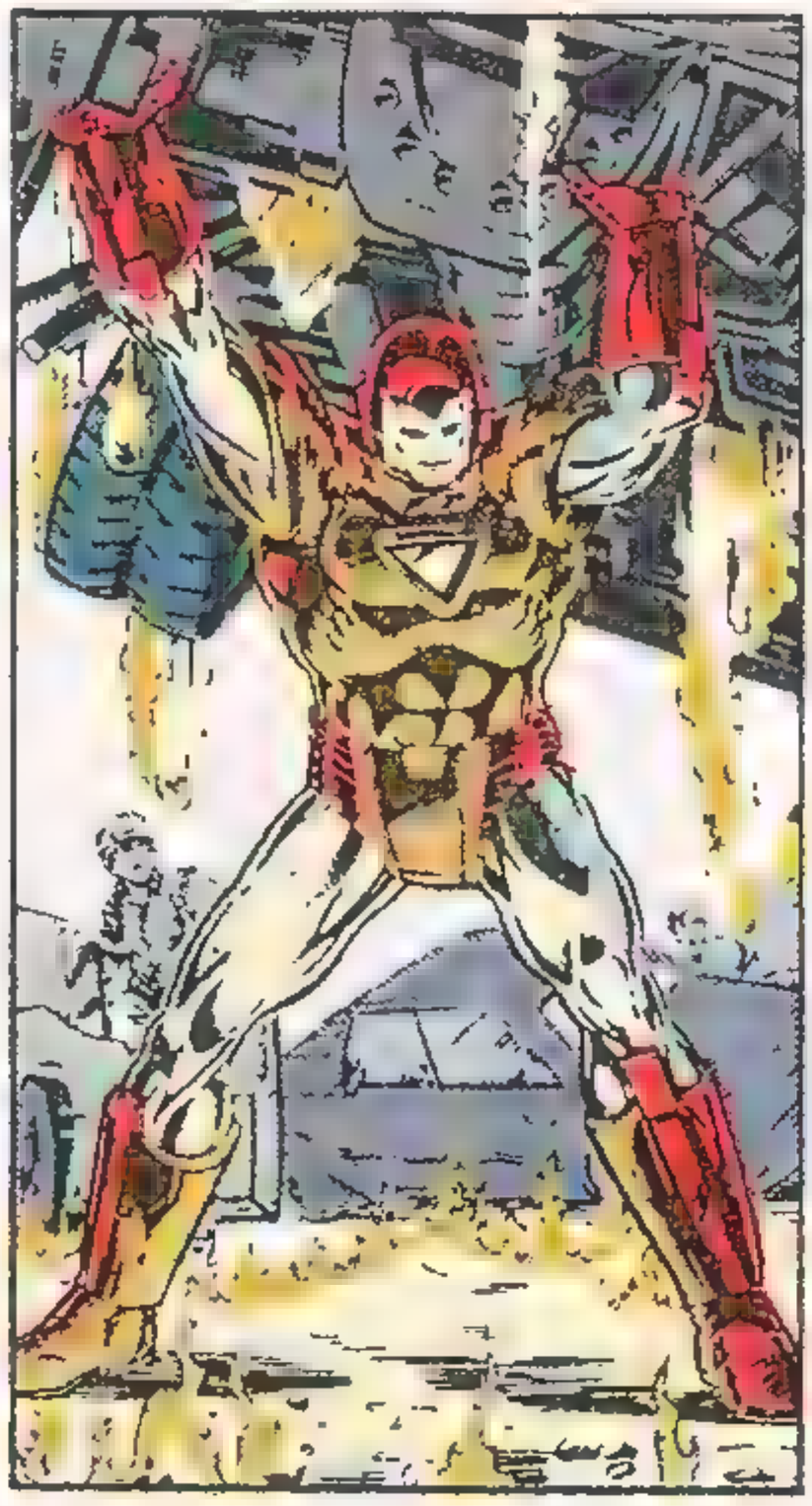
After all this waiting, all this wondering, all this suspense, the results are finally in! The most important audience survey of all time has been completed! But you won't believe the outcome!

Well, maybe you will; after all, you know comic book persons never speak with forked tongue! And now, may I have a roll of drums and a blare of trumpets — Ta DAAAAA! — (thank you) as we announce the pandemonious verdict of Marveldom Assembled as to whether New World's upcoming live-action production of IRON MAN should be a movie or a TV series!

Now here's the part that's hard to believe. With all the hundreds and hundreds of letters that poured into our offices, the final tabulation turned out to be — a furshlugginer TIE!

Yep, that's it. You heard it right. Countless hordes of mellow Marvelites told us in no uncertain terms that ol' **Shell-Head** simply had to be produced as a full-length motion picture, while an absolutely equal amount of Marvel madmen want the tempestuous tribulations of **Tony Stark** to be presented as a primetime TV series!

See why I'm on the horns of a dilemma, caught between a rock and a hard place? After spending millions (wouldja believe thousands? Hundreds? Okay, a couple'a bucks) on the world's greatest public opinion poll, we're still as undecided as ever! And if you think that's rough on *us*, poor Tony



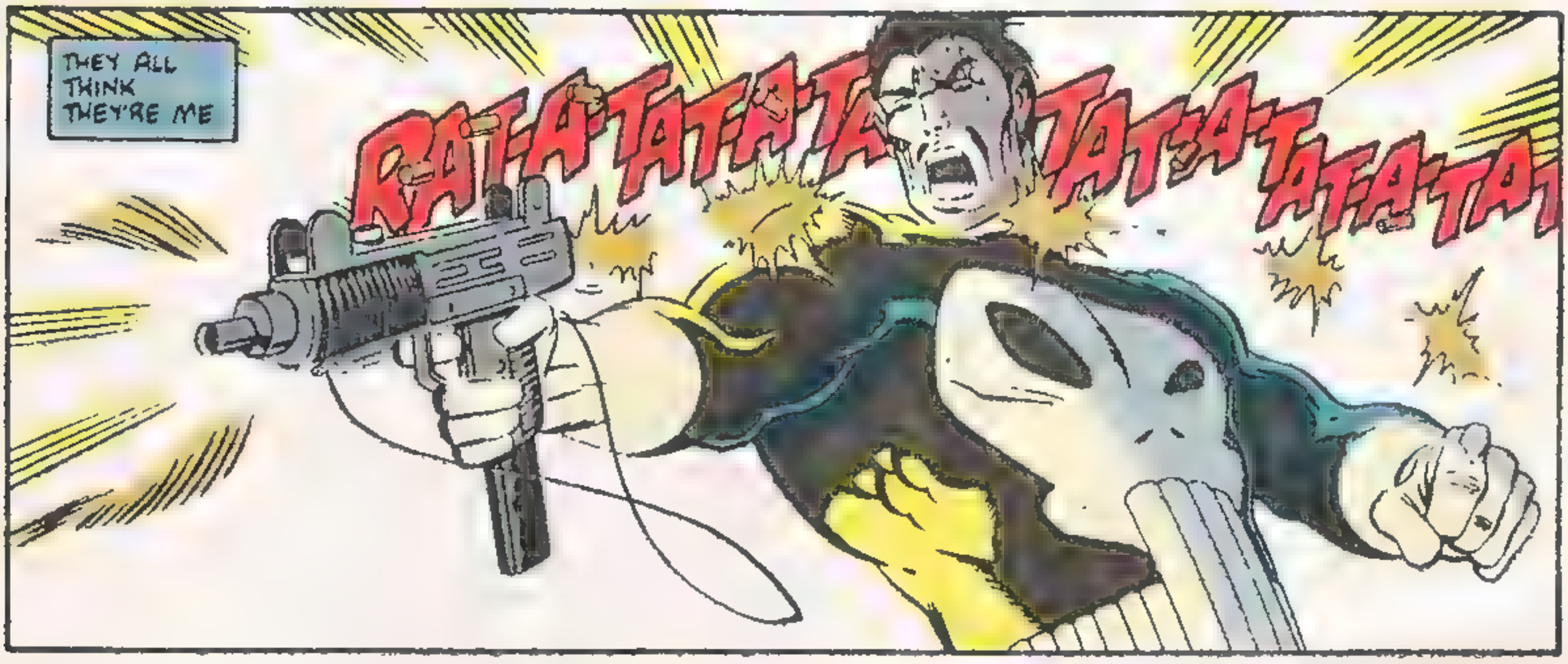
Stark is thinking of trading in his armor for a crystal ball!

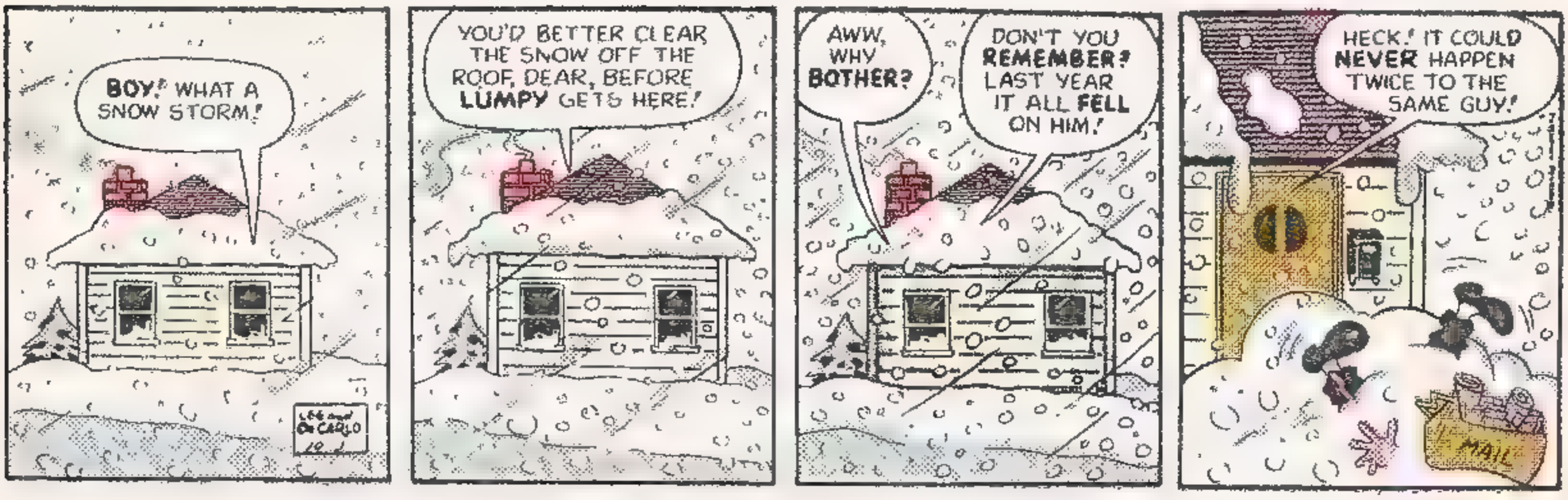
But not to fret, Frantic One! We'll call a major meeting at the stadium-sized New World conference room and settle this burning question yet! One thing you can be sure of — whatever the outcome, you'll be the first to know!

And, continuing our perpetual progress report, the screenplay for SUB-MARINER, THE MOVIE (well, what did you *think* it was, **Sub-Mariner** The Egg Salad?) is now about two-thirds finished! That means we're rapidly approaching that dramatic day when you'll see ol' fish-face battling the hordes of evil on behalf of the fabled realm! Y'know, it's hard for me not to get all misty-eyed when I think of all the wondrous cinematic treasures we have in store for you!

Oh, did I tell you last ish that we're also planning a movie based on THE PUNISHER? If I didn't, we are. (And even if I did, we are!) Know what our biggest problem is? Finding someone rotten enough for him to punish! I mean, when this cat does his punishing, he's not about to waste all that talent on a litterbug or some jaunty jay-walker, right? But fear not, when it comes to digging up rotten rascals, we're world class excavators! We'll see to it that the **Punisher's** penchant for mayhem doesn't go to waste!

Want more news? (Sounds like I'm auditioning to be a TV anchorman!) Look, instead of just telling you about all the great New World movie and TV productions that are in the works based on our Marvel super heroes, I'll save that for next ish and tell you, instead, about a few red-hot New World projects that are causing a ton of excitement among your whole bashful




WILLIE LUMPKIN
© 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo
BOY! WHAT A SNOW STORM!
YOU'D BETTER CLEAR THE SNOW OFF THE ROOF, DEAR, BEFORE LUMPY GETS HERE!
AWW, WHY BOTHER?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? LAST YEAR IT ALL FELL ON HIM!
HECK! IT COULD NEVER HAPPEN TWICE TO THE SAME GUY!
MAIL

bullpen! And, since you asked so politely, here's what they are—

APPRENTICE TO MURDER! This mystical movie stars **Donald Sutherland** (remember how great he was in EYE OF THE NEEDLE?) as a guy who has to battle the **Devil**! Admit it now! It's not the kind of story you run into every day! I don't know about you, but this is one thriller that **Smilin' Stan** isn't gonna miss! (Aw, I wasn't being absolutely truthful. I do so know about you. And I know you won't wanna miss it, either! Can you ever forgive me for sounding as though I doubted you?)

FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC! No, no, **Irving Forbush**, it's not a home-decorating story! It's about some kids who have to stay hidden, locked in an attic till an old man dies! It's sort of an off-key horror story and, even though it's not based on any of our own titanic titles, I have a sneaky suspicion that it's done in the somewhat spectacular though moderately maddening Marvel manner! And I can bestow no greater accolade!

But now, hang on to your hat — or, if you're not wearing one, grab your darlin' little pointy head! Here comes the great new video cassette of — CREEPSHOW 2! What's it got? Oh, not very much; not much more than incredible animation, eye-popping live action and pulse-pounding goose bumps, gargoyles and grotesqueries! It's directed by **Michael Gornick** who was the cinematographer for the original CREEPSHOW. Yep, I'm betting that this one's got it all! Or, if it doesn't, it'll sure know where to get it!

But what about television? Hey, I thought you'd never ask! First though, I've just gotta tell you this, because it cracks me up! When New World decided to do a TV series based on one of the most unusual super heroes of all, named (wouldja believe?) **Captain Justice**, they scrounged around for a far-out title and finally decided to call the show BELIEVERS. But, another movie beat them to the title and so they caucused for a while and elected to change the name to TRUE BELIEVERS! (Nah, I didn't sue 'em! Hey, we're all friends!) Next thing I know, they changed the name again, to TRUE COLORS! Then, just when I was starting to get used to that one, I learned it's now called ONCE A HERO! At least, that was the name an hour ago! So, look for ONCE A HERO on ABC-TV, Saturdays at 8:00 PM — or for anything that sounds like some kind'a super hero show at that time and channel; I mean, with this goofy gang, they might change the name again right after I finish this column. Like I always say, nothing like being precise!

And, for all you **Elvis** fans — which includes practically everybody — New World is starting to prepare a 4-hour miniseries about The King! Yep, four full hours jam-packed with everything you've ever wanted to know about one of the world's greatest super stars, and you'll be able to see it all on ABC-TV sometime in the near future! It's based on the best-selling book by **Priscilla Presley**, named ELVIS & ME. (Naturally! What didja expect — **Howard the Duck**? Sheeesh!)

As you can imagine, there's a lot more coming up as well, but you know me — I don't wanna spoil you! Besides, it embarrasses me to think of you sitting there, reading and treasuring each and every one of these priceless words with tears of gratitude trickling down your trembling cheeks. After all, you're only human. I'm really not sure how many of these emotional, highly-charged sessions you can take before you crack!

Well, speaking of cracking, the time has come for me to take leave of the workaday world and re-enter my own private little universe where everything's bigger than life and we never run out of exclamation points!

So, till next ish when we'll figuratively fling ourselves into each other's arms once again, this is your cavortin' compadre admonishing you to Hug a Hog for Happiness and, wherever you go, whatever you do, never ever forget eh, uh, ah, well waddaya know — I forgot!

Oh, yeah! Now I remember—

Excelsior!

Stan

WHEN LAST WE SAW OUR INTREPID REPORTER IN THE NEW UNIVERSE, FRED HEMBECK WAS BEING GIVEN A GUIDED TOUR* LET'S CHECK BACK IN AND SEE HOW IT'S GOING, SHALL WE?..
* SEE MARVEL AGE #60
AND OVER HERE...
...HERE WE HAVE...OR HAD...A MAJOR AMERICAN CITY, WE FELT IT NECESSARY TO...uh...TERMINATE.
WOW! YOU SURE TURNED THIS BURG INTO THE PITS!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
HEY! YOU'RE NOT THE SAME GUY I STARTED THIS TOUR WITH!! YOU'RE -- YOU'RE -- WELL, SOMEHOW, YOU'RE SHORTER!
SO WHO ISN'T?
HI, FRED, MY NAME IS TOM, AND I'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE NEW NEW UNIVERSE!!
HEY! IT'S MY OLD BUDDY, MARK HAZZARD, MERC!
BUT--BUT...HE LOOKS...
--DEAD!
...GEEZ...WHEN YOU GET CANCELLED IN THE NEW UNIVERSE, YOU REALLY GET CANCELLED...
SOMETIMES, THOUGH, YOU GET MODIFIED. YOU KNEW 'EM AS PSI-FORCE, BUT BANKING ON THE HOPES OF A WAVE OF MEL BLANC NOSTALGIA TO SWEEP ACROSS THE LAND, MAY I INTRODUCE TO YOU--
SEW!!
I SEE, I SEE... ...sigh...
MOVING RIGHT ALONG...
HEY! LOOK AT THAT GUY LEAPING OUT OF THAT AIRPLANE WITHOUT A 'CHUTE!
DO YOU THINK HE'LL FLY BECAUSE HE'S A P.P.?... Y'KNOW, A DISPLACED PARANORMAL?...

HI, TOM.
IS THAT THE "NEW NEW UNIVERSE" OR THE "NEW NEW UNIVERSE"?
ACTUALLY, I PREFER THE "NEW NEW UNIVERSE," BUT NEITHER TERM IS A NO-NO.
NO?
NO.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS OR NOT, BUT WE'VE RECENTLY SPENT A WHOLE CHUNK OF BUCKS TO HIRE JOHN BYRNE TO COME IN AND RADICALLY CHANGE "STARBRAND," THE FLAGSHIP TITLE OF THE NEW NEW UNIVERSE!
oh YEAH? WHAT'D HE DO?
THE BOOK IS NOW CALLED--
(ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?)
--"THE STARBRAND"!!
NO!
I'VE HEARD OF BEING PAID BY THE WORD, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!
THE SI·CY·SUE FORCE!
Y-YOU'RE THE SI·CY·SUE FORCE NOW?
SI.
AND YOU ARE?..
CY.
CY?
SI.
AND YOU, YOU MUST BE?..
SUE.
SUE?
SI.
AND JUST WHERE'D YOU ALL GET SUCH MAGNIFICENT OUTFITS?
DID YOU BUY THEM AT SOME STORE, OR DID YOU YOURSELVES, YOU KNOW, DID YOU... UH...
SPLAT!
ACTUALLY, I BELIEVE HE HIT THE GROUND BECAUSE OF A D.P.--Y'KNOW, A DISPLACED PARACHUTE?...
C'MON-- LET'S GO.
YAWN--GOSH, I'M FEELING REAL SLEEPY ALL OF A SUDDEN. DOES THAT MEAN?..
YUP--NEXT STOP--NIGHTMASK!
WAKE ME WHEN WE GET THERE... YAWN...

# MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Y'know, the hardest thing about compiling the Marvel Trivia Quiz isn't double-checking the answers — even despite those times I'm 99% sure I'm remembering the right facts, but I have to dig out an issue that's twenty years old just to make 100% sure. No, the trickiest part is wording the *questions* correctly, so that there's really only one valid answer!

And so this month we salute **Dale J. Roberts**, of Wilmington, Delaware, as our first Marvel Madman Extraordinaire — a rank I'm creating just this second for a Merry Marvelite who keeps the trivia stream flowing smoothly! Dale's a major league **Iron Man** fan and pointed out that in our Shell-Head quiz a few months back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #55, **Kraken** wasn't the only villain killed by **Scourge** who knew **Tony's** secret identity. Also correctly answering this question would be **the Wraith** — if you consider him a villain. (I always thought of the Wraith as merely misguided, myself, but fair's fair.) Also, if one goes by strict logo appearances, Iron Man's MARVEL TEAM-UP appearances were limited to eight. Dale's such a fan of the Golden Avenger, he even listed for me every single one of Iron Man's cameo appearances!

But Dale isn't the only M.M.E. we christen this month! Hats off also to **Jason Aubrey** of Houston, Texas, who took a fine-tooth comb to our G.I. JOE quiz in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56. I described rescuing **Dr. Burkhart** as the Joes' first mission, but maybe I should have said "debut" mission, for as Jason correctly points out G.I. JOE #s 26 and 27 depict earlier missions in flashback. Thanks, Jason and Dale! It's great to know the Marvel Trivia Quiz is watched so closely!

Out with the old business; in with the new! The New Universe, that is! This month's quiz is a little different. The odd numbered questions focus on the New Universe, the Marvel line of comics set in the real world. The even numbered questions deal with real people (celebrities, politicians, and other residents of what we think of as the real world) who've appeared in Marvel Comics over the years. So we're actually presenting two quizzes in one!

The New Universe questions will tease and tantalize those of you who have been following Marvel's special new line of comics adventures over the last year or so, while the even-numbered questions will test the wits of those of you who are longtime Marvel maniacs! So don't delay, quiz away! (All right, it may not be the slickest slogan in the world, but it's at least as good as "Don't yield, back SHIELD!") As they have ever been, and as they will ever be, answers are on page 32.

—*Brian Nelson*

1. To which of the following places would it be safe to transfer the **Star Brand**: the roof of your mouth, your scalp, your pet dog, or your checkbook?

2. Author of "The Right Stuff," what New York bon vivant is also a longtime friend of **Stephen Strange**?

3. What New Universe assemblage counts **Walt**, **Mary Lou**, **Holly**, **Victor**, **Dan**, and **Keith** among its members?

4. What Israeli "psychic" once assisted **Daredevil**, the Man Without Fear, in tracking down what nefarious criminal?

5. Who appeared first in the New Universe: **Jenny "Spitfire" Swensen**, or her sidekicks, the **Troubleshooters**?

6. What rock band did **Howard the Duck** once encounter in a psychiatric ward?

7. Where did **Nightmask's** parents die?

8. What group of comedians helped **Spider-Man** battle **the Silver Samurai**?

9. MARK HAZZARD: MERC has gone the way of all flesh, but if they ever release a title called SON OF MERC (don't hold your breath waiting), who would it star?

10. The woman who designed the page you're reading this very moment also appeared on a recent cover of CAPTAIN AMERICA, as a possible replacement for **Steve Rogers**; who is she? (No peeking back to the contests page!)

11. In what fast-food franchise did **Justice** recently defeat a gang of crazed killers?

12. What terminally odd rock singer headlined MARVEL PREMIERE #50?

13. We all know that **Jack Magniconte** and **Kickers, Inc.**, are players for the New York Smashers, but what are the names of their rival football teams in Washington and Chicago?

14. What political figure did Hulkbuster Base commander **John D. Armbruster** give his life to protect?

15. In what book does **Benjamin**, the cuddliest character in the New Universe, occasionally appear?

16. What Marvel scripter "died" in a 1981 MAN-THING tale?

17. In what New Universe book did the first New Universe crossover occur, and what heroes did it involve?

18. **The Beatles**, the Fab Four from Liverpool, first appeared in what Marvel comic?

19. In what order were the members of **D.P. 7** recaptured by the Clinic?

20. Who was Stan Lee escorting to the movies, when his friend Daredevil ran by, way back in DD #79?

# THE NEW NEW UNIVERSE

It began as the world outside your window. A world in which, after the mysterious White Event, super heroes came to secretly exist. But now that secrecy will be earth-shakingly shattered. In the second White Event, a man-made cataclysm, a major city in the United States will be annihilated.

And the New Universe will be transformed.

MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE asked New Universe editor **Howard Mackie** and his writers, **John Byrne** of THE STAR BRAND, **Mark Gruenwald** of D.P. 7, **Peter David** of JUSTICE, and **Fabian Nicieza** of PSI-FORCE and artist **Paul Ryan** of D.P. 7 to describe what's new in the New Universe and what the plans are for their series.

"We are revamping the books," Howard Mackie said. "I felt that STAR BRAND, PSI-FORCE, JUSTICE, and D.P. 7 had deviated from the original concept of the New Universe. I'm trying to get it back, closer to the original concept.

"What you'll be seeing in the upcoming stories is that we're going to explain exactly what the White Event was and what caused it. That'll happen in THE STAR BRAND. And in fact the White Event was responsible for a large number of people throughout this world receiving paranormal powers.

"In JUSTICE we are explaining his origin. It was not exactly what it seemed during the past year and a half, neither to him nor to the readers.

"PSI-FORCE has a new writer and artist, Fabian Nicieza and **Ron Lim**. We're going to learn a little more about the kids who make up **Psi-Force**. The group is leaving San Francisco. They will split up for a while. And they'll be on the run.

"D.P. 7, which is the only New Universe book that has its original creators still working on it, is becoming a lot more exciting and action-packed. Mark Gruenwald, along with John Byrne, is helping determine the direction that the New Universe is taking.

"THE STAR BRAND is our flagship title. A lot of the events occurring in THE STAR BRAND are going to be quite big. A major city is going to be destroyed. What we hope to do, in line with the real world theory of the New Universe, is explore all the long-term ramifications of this devastation. If you destroy a major city in the United States, it affects pretty much the entire world.

"Also, we're having Marvel's first bookshelf format story. It's a self-contained story that's tentatively being called THE PITT. It's co-written by John Byrne and Mark Gruenwald and penciled by **Sal Buscema**. It's something that is going to shoot off from THE STAR BRAND #12 in which a major city is destroyed. It explores the ramifications and the consequences of that devastating event.

"The continuity in the New Universe is going to be very tightly linked. I want the reader to be able to pick up any one of the New Universe titles and have not only a complete story there, but also to be able to gain insight into what's happening in the rest of this world we're creating."




"THE STAR BRAND is the object itself, the mysterious movable power tattoo that the character referred to as the **Old Man** gave to **Kenneth Connell** in the first isue of STAR BRAND," John Byrne, the writer and breakdown artist, said. "STAR BRAND is what I have come to think of as Kenneth Connell's super hero name. So the reason that we are introducing the article

'THE' to the title is to emphasize the fact that Kenneth Connell is now becoming defocused as the central character.

"It is going to be the Star Brand itself which will be the central character. So we will be seeing this power tattoo, this little Star Brand-shaped thing getting passed around. As different people come into possession of it, each individual who has it will find that it will manifest its powers differently. Connell got pretty much standard-issue super hero powers: flight, super-strength, invulnerability. The next person to get it will have different stuff. And the next person after that will have even more different stuff because the Star Brand taps into the basic personality of the individual utilizing it.

"So the Star Brand will become essentially the springboard for a series of different stories about different people and how their lives are affected by getting this power.

"Kenneth Connell will go public with his power in issue #11. At the end of issue #12, for all intents and purposes we will be seeing a second White Event. The first White Event was an earlier, larger, manifestation of what will be happening in THE STAR BRAND #12. We will be learning through the course of issue #12 that there are some things you can do with the Star and some things that you can't — and some things that you shouldn't. Once upon a time someone did one of those things you shouldn't and the result was the White Event. Now somebody else is going to try and do it again and the result will be a second White Event — a lower scale, lower-grade one. Even so, it'll still be pretty big, because in that second White Event, a major city in the United States will be destroyed.

"The person who caused the destruction is going to disappear for quite awhile as a result. So our focus will be less on tracking down and bringing to justice the person who did this as it will be the effect it has on some of the established supporting cast of THE STAR BRAND — specifically **Debbie Fix** who kind of swings front and center as of issue #12, the same issue that we find out that she's going to have a baby. We will be introducing the environmental ramifications of this event. There will be some pretty nasty storms, possibly some earthquake activity. We haven't really decided what will be the ultimate effect of removing what is essentially a divot of earth fifty miles across and fifty miles deep. This is a serious chunk of real estate that is going away. Obviously it will have repercussions.

"By this time next year, the Star Brand will probably be in the possession of someone we haven't seen before. And he will be manifesting totally different powers because he is a different person. As I said earlier, each person who gets it gets different results from the Star Brand. It's like wishing from a genie, not everyone would have the same wish. And it works on an unconscious level, so you're not even aware of what you're wishing. And of course the world that the Star Brand is operating in will be vastly different. The destruction of 'City X' will cause world-wide repercussions. Certainly the revealed presence of super heroes on that world is going to change it dramatically.

"All in all, it's going to be a *New* Universe. It's not going to be a Marvel Universe and it's not going to be our universe. It's going to be a whole different ball of wax."

"D.P. 7 is the story of seven normal people who over the course of one summer got extremely abnormal powers and how they are attempting to cope with them," Mark Gruenwald, D.P. 7's writer said.

"The powers they have are not necessarily gifts without consequences," Paul Ryan, D.P. 7's penciler, said.

"The thing about D.P. 7 more so than any other team book is that there isn't a status quo plot-wise," Mark

said. "The only status quo is a thematic one, and that is coping with the uncopable — having super-powers. There are a million different ways the plotline can go.

"You could summarize that in the first twelve issues, **D.P. 7** were on the run. They're in the Clinic for the next six issues, then they're on the road again. They will not be hunted anymore, they'll actually be doing some hunting themselves.

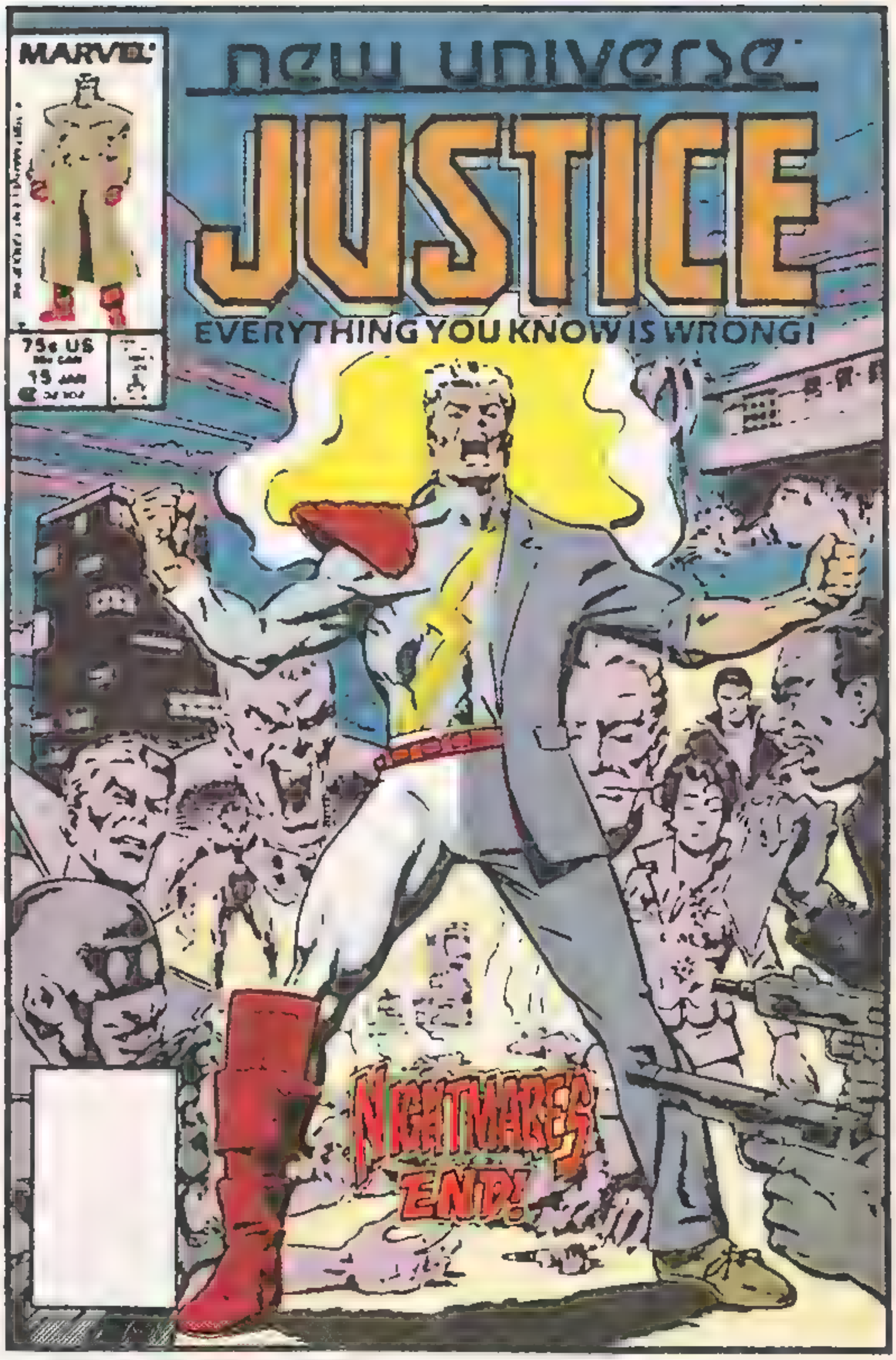
"I hope to change the status quo of the team every six to twelve months, and that's not just changing the membership, but also their purpose."

"The fact that they have really strange and sometimes rather disgusting powers is secondary to the fact that they're trying to cope with a specific problem," Paul said. "And that problem is being unable to live a normal life in the world they've known since birth."

"The D.P. 7 are among the first paranormals to travel to the site of the great disaster," Mark said. "They will be in the vicinity anywhere from three to five issues. And they will finally meet other people previously established in the New Universe in the course of the storyline, such as **Spitfire** and the three paranormal crazies from STAR BRAND #4.

"As will probably be known by the time this comes out, Ken Connell is the first paranormal to go public to a major degree. Spitfire has done some overt operations in which she could have been seen, but there is no official acknowledgement of her existence. **Justice** has been seen walking down the street and blowing people anyway, but no one knows he's paranormal.

"In light of Connell's going public, all the people at the Clinic will wonder whether it will be feasible to go public in the future."




# JUSTICE™

"JUSTICE is the story of a man named **John Tensen** who has for over a year labored under the belief that he is a Justice warrior from another dimension. And as of issue #15, he becomes disillusioned of this concept," writer Peter David said. "Up until that time, under the belief that he was this Justice warrior, he would be ruthlessly pursuing his own concept of good and evil by protecting good people and eliminating the bad. He would do this by the power that is contained in his left and right hands. His left hand is capable of creating a force shield and with his right hand he creates what he calls his sword. It is an energy blast which reduces people to ashes. Once Tensen realizes that he's not from another dimension and that it was a delusion foisted on him by a paranormal, he decides that he's going to be the judge, jury, and executioner of paranormals.

"Justice is not for the faint of heart. Justice is going to be a man who is on the cutting edge of sanity . . . and occasionally he will be sliding over.

"For the problem is that in order to shield away from his more human mind, if you will, the horror of what he's doing and what he's become, he has to completely slam shut the door on all conscience and society-ingrained ethics that tell him that what he's doing is wrong. As a result of having to forcibly repress these emotions, he is a man who is walking on the edge of a breakdown. And who knows what could happen if Justice should lose what grip on his sanity he has now?

"In the long-term, what will be happening, basically, is that because of the environmental fallout of the destruction of a major U.S. city, New York City will be evacuated. And the only people who will be living there are going to be a few hardy survivalists; a few criminal types, and a whole bunch of paranormals. New York City is going to become kind of the haven for paranormals. And Justice is going to wind up setting himself up in New York City as the dominant judicial force in town.

"In the past, the problem of being a supporting cast member of JUSTICE is that you seemed to have an incredibly short lifespan. There are a couple of characters who will be popping up in issue #16. One is a police detective named **Claire Burnett** who first appeared in MERC. She gets caught up in the search for Tensen. There is also a psychic who is the first one to realize exactly what is going on."

"PSI FORCE is a series about five teen-age runaways who are coerced by their mentor, **Emmett Proudhawk**, into running away from home and joining together into a team because Proudhawk had a vision of them joining and merging into one," Fabian Nicieza, the writer of PSI FORCE, said. "Upon Proudhawk's death, the kids find that among them they can create a creature called Psi-Hawk which is a manifestation of all their energies. Since getting together, the kids have been staying in Sanctuary, which is a home for runaways in San Francisco, trying to learn how to cope with their powers and trying to cope with the people who find and try to manipulate them.

"Issue #16 is the first issue I'm doing with the new regular artist **Ron Lim**. In it we take the kids to a genetic research laboratory that's offering them the opportunity to be cured of their powers. The kids find out what exactly 'cured' means and decide they don't want to be a part of that. So they escape. In escaping they cause quite a bit of damage which is going to lead into ramifications in the future because a lot of people in the government are going to have it in for Psi Force.

"Also in issue #16, the Psi Force is going to learn more about their powers. I'm also trying to assign some biological explanations for how their powers work. So any readers out there with scientific backgrounds who want to write in and help out are more than welcome to.

"Issue #17 is called 'Beg Tomorrow.' It's called that because, they're going to beg that tomorrow never comes. It will introduce two new paranormals. Their names are **Troublemaker** and **Imprint**. And they are the point guards or scout force for a group called the **Medusa Network** which is an international group of bounty-hunters. Some of them are paranormals, some are not. Basically Imprint and Troublemaker's job is to get as much information as possible on the quarry, and then relay that to the Medusa Network before the bounty-hunter field teams go out in operation. Initially twelve members of the Medusa Network will be shown in the course of four or five issues as they hunt down members of Psi Force.

"The team will split up. I'd rather not give away how that works out right now. Each sub-group will be pursued by different factions of the Medusa Network. The reason I'm doing this is because I wanted to put them in a situation where they'd be forced to cope on their own, or in a grouping that leads to friction between them. I want the kids to use their powers to the fullest. Since they will be split up, **Psi Hawk** will not appear in the book for a while. In fact, the first time he appears in the series may very well be the last time he appears.

"I promise at least fifteen new villains. I promise supporting characters, and I promise that one of the team members will die and that new members will join.

"The Psi Force has been trying to hide for a very long time. Now, they're not going to take the garbage that's been thrown at them. They're going to start fighting back — hard."

# THE PITT™

"What we're going for here is that because THE STAR BRAND is bi-monthly, and because the first book to come out after THE STAR BRAND, D.P. 7, doesn't come out until the following week, given that the New Universe operates in 'real time,' we have a situation in that a major event occurs in the last two pages of THE STAR BRAND #12 and a week goes by before we would see the repercussions in the first of the other New Universe books," John Byrne, the co-writer of THE PITT said. "So Howard Mackie suggested that Mark Gruenwald and I get together with him and **Eliot Brown** and concoct a special one-shot bookshelf format edition self-contained story that would cover the first twelve hours after the event.

"So we will show all the stuff that happens when you basically change an entire city — a sphere of earth fifty miles across — into totally degenerate matter that's never been seen on Earth before and leave a hole that's roughly fifty miles deep. And of course the repercussions are endless. There are high winds, thunder and lightning storms, fires and stuff that the world hasn't seen since the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

"And that's what we're dealing with in this cataclysm, the first twelve hours after the New Universe changes . . . or after the Earth changes in that universe.

"There are two already established characters from the New Universe who will be appearing. One is the **Witness**, who appeared in this year's D.P. 7 ANNUAL, and the other is Spitfire, operating as a government agent. The rest of the characters we'll be seeing are civilian and military personnel that we've never met before but who will probably be taking a fairly important role. We'll be introducing a sort of **Nick Fury** character for the New Universe who is — the way I described him was what if **Oliver North** was created by **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**? He's a real-world Nick Fury, he doesn't have the S.H.I.E.L.D. stuff. He's the main focus for this story, and he'll be recurring throughout the New Universe.

"THE PITT will explore every part of the aftermath from the top of the heap down to one poor family who happens to be driving in their Volkswagen right on the edge of the event when it happens.

"The New Universe is a lot less cosmic than the Marvel Universe," John said. "There's nobody in, say, D.P. 7 who could duke it out with the **Hulk**. The wielder of the Star Brand could not go one-on-one with **Thor**. We're trying to deal with the super heroics on a more human scale and with a heavy dose of practical application, saying, 'Okay, there are super heroes in the world. What would *really* happen?' "

"I think that the strength of the New Universe has yet to be seen," Mark said. "But it will soon become very apparent by the time THE PITT is published. That strength is that things can actually get wilder in the New Universe than it is allowed to in any other fictional comic book universe. By this time next year, people will have seen exactly what we mean."

—*Dwight Jon Zimmerman*

# STAR SPOTLIGHT

# VISIONARIES™

It began as my first assignment for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. It ended as an experience that would change my life forever . . .

"They're the strongest, the bravest, the most daring men and women of their planet, determined to wield a power that is one hundred thousand years old. Whether they chose to use this power to rebuild their devastated planet, or to conquer their weakened race in an attempt to create a new order out of the chaos that has gripped their world, remains to be seen," explained editor **Bob Budiansky**. On the surface, he was talking about Star Comics' latest addition to their already action-packed line-up, THE VISIONARIES! I knew, however, that he was talking about much more . . .

"Sounds like someone I know," I thought smugly to myself from the visitor's side of a desk chockfull of the many assignments that befall Bob in his alter ego as Marvel's Editor of Special Projects. My mind reeled with a thousand unanswered questions. Destiny was perched upon my tongue, a future as one of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's top reporters threatened to erupt from the point of my pen. Before I could ask another question, a phone call in Production forced Bob to excuse himself a moment. And then it happened.

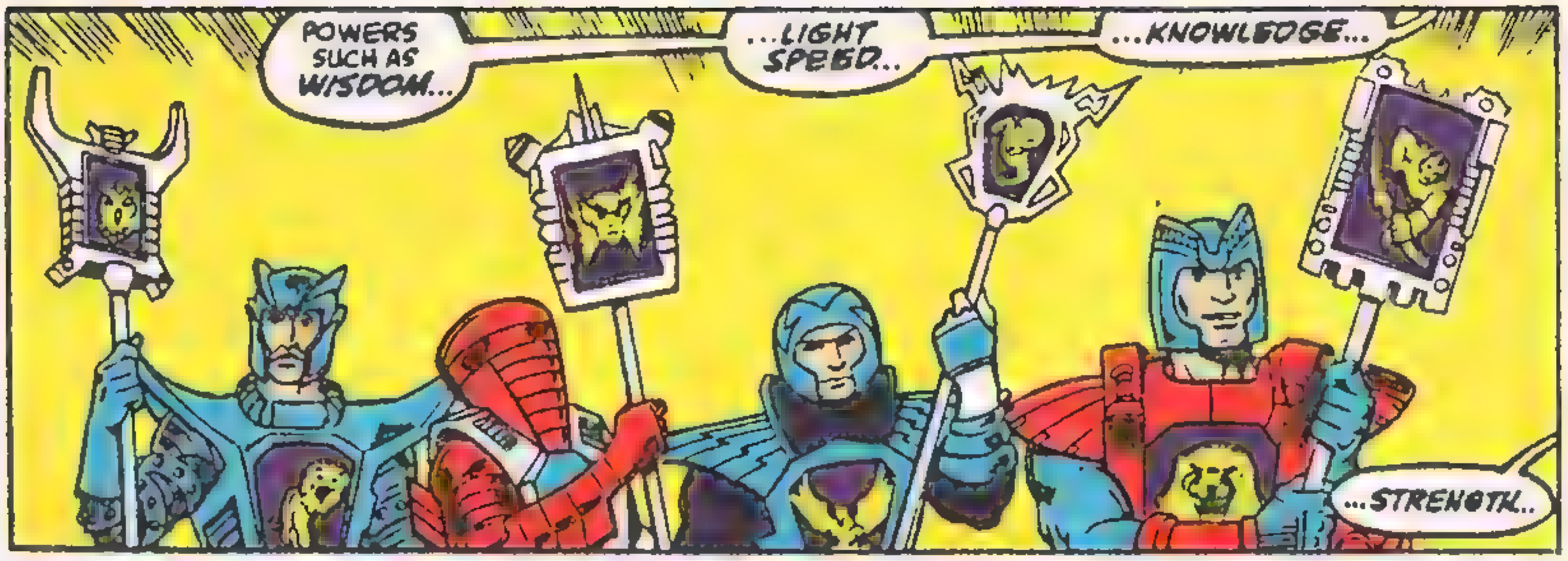
I was alone in the office of a Marvel Editor. And my life would never be the same again.

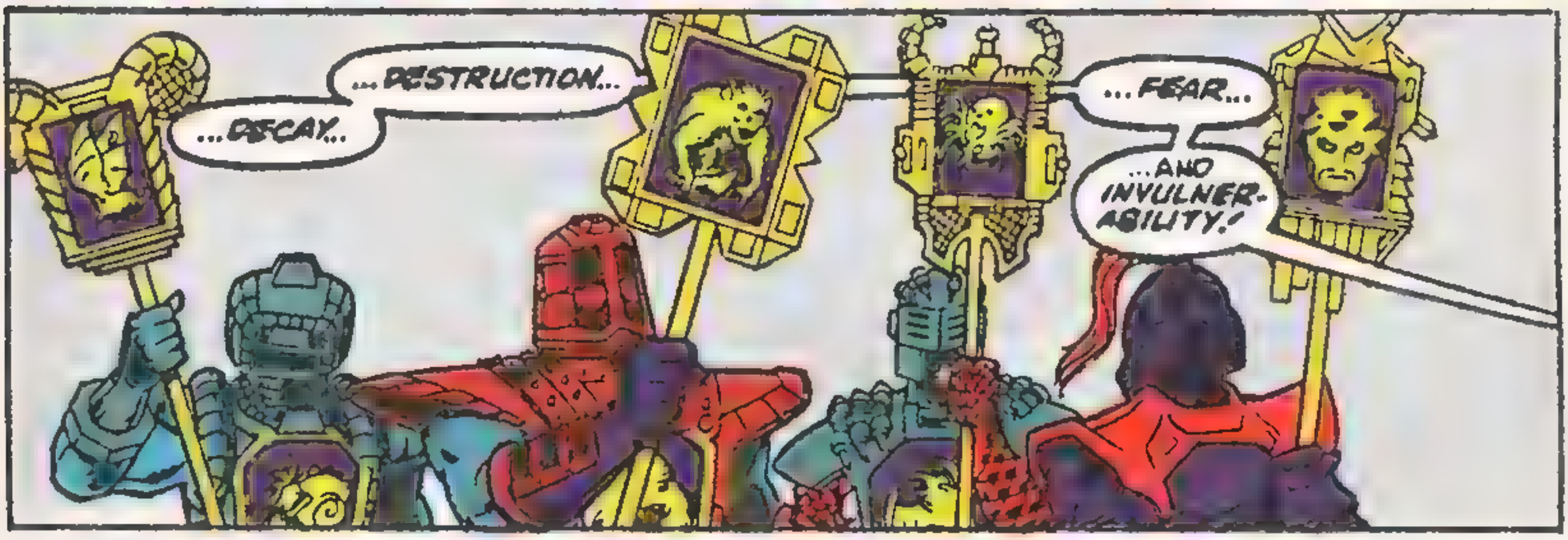
Tentatively, so as not to disrupt the aura of unadulterated creativity that permeated the entire office, I slowly crossed the desk . . . eyes scanning the table top to be rewarded with the splash-page of this exciting new series I'd been assigned to cover. At first glance it was obvious that this would be a series unlike any other.

Sure, page one was intriguing enough — a high tech space craft soaring over a futuristic, obviously alien landscape — but could I trust the creators to deliver the goods?

A glance at the line-up immediately allayed my fears. First issue written by **Jim Salicrup**. Anybody familiar with the Salicrup-edited SPIDER-MAN books knows that a beginning series couldn't ask for a better start. Following through in the second issue is writer **Gerry Conway**. I'm enthusiastically awaiting this particular pro's prose on THE VISIONARIES. But what was this name in the artist's slot, "**Mark Bagely?**" I never heard of — Wait a minute! This must be the same Mark Bagely who won the MARVEL

VISIONARIES TM and © 1987 Hasbro, Inc




TRY-OUT BOOK contest. It all came back to me. The crisp pencils, the exciting layouts. You can imagine my reaction when I discovered he was being inked by no less a personage than **Romeo Tanghal**! With a creative force like this, my expectations were raised to stellar proportions. Turning the first page, I knew I wasn't going to be disappointed . . .

Naturally, space doesn't allow me to tell you the entire story, so let me share with you the highlights:

The planet of Prysmos, located in a distant galaxy, functions on a technology far more advanced than ours. That is until their three suns, aligned as they are once every one hundred thousand years, renders all their advanced technology utterly useless! Their entire world is caught unaware. Nations bereft of their computers, farmers helpless as their scientifically augmented crops fail, a race confused and starving, are all searching for an escape from this planetwide madness. And in their moment of need, an ancient stranger appears to offer them their only hope.

**Merklynn** mysteriously explains that he's been around since the first stellar alignment a hundred centuries ago! In that time, he has waited as guardian to the one source of power that could save the technically devastated, war-ravaged world that he'd known would one day fail the people of his home planet. Where science was rendered useless, Magic now reigned supreme! But how could a world without learned mages and wizards hope to wield the powers of Magic? Merklynn explains that those people brave enough, daring enough to survive the climb up The Iron Mountain, will be granted individual powers. Powers they can use however they choose.

Naturally, being one of only a handful of powerful beings on an entire planet may tend to go to your head. As a result, the survivors of the quest up Iron Mountain, **The Visionaries**, find themselves split into two distinct factions. **The Spectral Knights** use their abilities to try to aid their dying planet in its darkest hour. They are in constant battle with their mean-spirited fellow Visionaries, **The Darkling Lords**. As Merklynn watches impassively from the shadows, and a world looks to the Visionaries for an escape from the madness their world has been propelled into, the planet Prysmos is caught in the forces of a Magic that has been inactive for one hundred thousand years.

I could go on from here, explaining the mysterious glowing staffs that each Visionary possesses as a symbol/source of his power, but chances are you've already put this book aside and dashed for your nearest newsstand in search of this giant-sized 38-page first issue. For those of you who have stuck around to this paragraph, you get the reward of knowing that not only is THE VISIONARIES a brand new Star Comic, it's also a brand new set of action figures and accessories from the people at Hasbro. (Those same "power staffs" I alluded to only moments ago . . . they're actually holograms! Unbelievable, you say? Well, trot out to the local toy store and look for yourself. Then mail your apologies to me, care of this magazine.) Much like their predecessors in the illustrious history of comics—toy tie-ins, THE VISIONARIES are sure to enjoy the same long-lived newsstand life of MADBALLS, POPPLES, THE TRANSFORMEERS, G.I. JOE . . . need I go on?

So, you're probably wondering, how did this assignment alter the life of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's newest reporter? While covering this story, I realized the need for our world, any world, to be prepared for the impossible. So you can rest assured, that if one day you wake up to discover your toaster doesn't work, your walkman can't even whisper, your VCR is R.I.P., you can relax. Because by that time, I'll have discovered and climbed this mysterious Iron Mountain, and someday the world can look to the power of one young writer's resourcefulness to lead them from the darkness! Today, a reporter for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. Tomorrow . . . A Visionary!

**Scott Lobdell** action-figures and comics . . . I like the sound of that.

—*Scott Lobdell*

# THE MARVEL AGE 1976 part I

1976! Marvel Comics turned fifteen years old! And Marvel super heroes were busier than ever!

**Spider-Man**, for one, received his *third* monthly mag, with the debut of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN which is now called THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN! And as long-time comics fans know, it's once again being written and drawn by the original creative team of writer **Gerry Conway** and artist **Sal Buscema**. The first issue pitted **Pete** against one of his natural enemies, the merciless **Tarantula**! Other classic foes, such as the **Shocker** and the **Sandman**, were served up by Spider-scripter **Len Wein**, over in the pages of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. **Betty Brant** and **Ned Leeds** got married at long last — maybe it was an omen of how things would turn out, when Spider-Man had to protect the wedding from the criminal schemes of **Mirage**! **Dr. Octopus** was yet another old sparring partner who turned up in AMAZING, but rather the worse for wear; he was being haunted by the ghost of **Hammerhead**!

Of course, it wasn't really a ghost — Hammerhead had been blown out of synch with our reality by the nuclear explosion of a few years back, and he was struggling to get back into our world! Spidey and Doc Ock teamed up to defeat the gangster . . . and then, Spidey found himself attacked by the most bizarre menace of all! **The Terrible Tinkerer** had turned his own Spider-Mobile (that long-lost piece of mad machinery) against him! Spidey survived, and joined forces with **Nightcrawler** to solve a dangerous mystery — why had the **Punisher** become a ruthless sniper? Well, he hadn't! It was **Jigsaw**, pretending to be the Punisher — until the Punisher himself, together with the wall-crawler and the X-Man, put him away for keeps!

An encounter with the **Kingpin** closed out the year in AMAZING, along with a few scenes of the growing romance between **Liz Allen** and **Harry Osborn**. The **Human Fly** buzzed through the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL to keep Spidey on his toes (the return of Annuals was another great thing about '76).

SPIDER MAN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢
161
OCT.
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
IT'S THE BATTLE YOU DEMANDED— AS EVERYONE'S FAVORITE WEB-SLINGER STRUGGLES FOR HIS VERY LIFE AGAINST NIGHTCRAWLER!
AND IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH TROUBLE, THE PUNISHER IS GUNNING FOR SPIDEY, TOO!

But there was no rest for the weary; in MARVEL TEAM-UP, Spider-Man was web-slinging his way through his most complex team-ups ever, courtesy of writer **Bill Mantlo**! First off was a 4-part adventure co-starring the **Scarlet Witch**, the **Vision**, **Dr. Doom**, and **Moondragon**! **Cotton Mather**, Puritan witchhunter of 1692, all at the behest of the **Dark Rider**, an ancient wizard who wished to usurp the mystical power of others for himself! Returning through time from that epic struggle, Spider-Man overshot the mark, and encountered **Killraven** in the 21st century, and then **Deathlok**

in the 1990s! Finally making it back to '76, he joined up with the **Thing** to defeat the **Basilisk** (in a crossover with MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #17). Then, it was another four-parter, as Spidey worked with **Iron Man** and **Dr. Strange** against the amazing menace of the **Wraith**! This saga introduced the late, lamented policewoman, **Jean DeWolff** — the Wraith was her brother, **Brian**, whose psychic powers were mentally controlled by their crazed father, **Philip**. The first MARVEL TEAM-UP ANNUAL introduced Spider-Man to the new **X-Men**, as they defeated the megalomaniacal **Lords of Light and Darkness**! And the last team-up of the year paired ol' Webhead with ol' **Winghead**, as Spidey and **Cap** took on **Batroc** and a demon from the dimension of the **Night People**!

But wait, what are the Night People? For the answer, let's look to CAPTAIN AMERICA, where Cap's co-creator, **Jack Kirby**, had returned to Marvel at last! His initial opus was an 8-part saga, where Cap and the **Falcon** ran a gauntlet of perils, to prevent madman **Lord Taurey** from unleashing the Madbomb on America's 200th birthday! The Madbomb was a device which drove people insane, and Taurey's plan was to come in and build on the ashes the way Britain should have run the country back in 1776! Cap and Falc struggled against the **Trojan Horde**, ran riot in the Killderby, and faced a host of other dangers to defeat Taurey, just in time for the Bicentennial. Next, the Night People invaded from another dimension (oh, them!), strange, misshapen creatures who wanted new friends to populate their world! They brainwashed and kidnaped Falc and his old flame, **Leila**, until Cap came to rescue them with the aid of new friend, **Texas Jack Muldoon**! A monster called **Agron, the Unburied One**, also gave Cap fresh grief as he tried to break Leila and Sam from their brainwashing — as did the **Thing From the Black Hole**, in Cap's latest Annual!

What about the other **Avengers**? **Pepper** and **Happy Hogan** returned to IRON MAN, and Tony gained new supporting cast members as well: scientist **Abe Klein**, and security head **Michael O'Brien**, who swore to prove that Tony was responsible for the death of his brother, **Kevin**! **The Red Ghost** and **the Blizzard** wreaked havoc with Tony's life — and in the battles, Happy Hogan was injured, with the only cure once more transforming him into the ferocious **Freak**! Shell-Head managed to capture and cure Happy, luckily, and the Hogans returned to Chicago to rest up for a few years! **The Blood Brothers**, those old pawns of **Thanos**, returned for a fresh skirmish; Iron Man bested them with the help of guest-star **Daredevil**, the Man Without Fear! **The Controller**, **the Melter**, and **Commander Kraken** kept Tony busy for the rest of the year, but he still had time for one of the most unusual team-ups of all: the IRON MAN ANNUAL featured Tony with **the Man-Thing**, against the insidious menace of **the Molecule Man**! Amidst all the action, Tony gained a new secretary, **Krissy Longfellow** — her dark secrets would be the major Iron Man mystery of 1977!

Fellow Avenger **Thor** was journeying to the 50th century, along with **the Warriors Three**, to save **Zarrko** — and indeed, all history — from the uncanny **Time-Twisters**! A team-up with **Firelord** followed, as he and Thor were embroiled in the political strife of Costa Verde; **Jane Foster**, with the spirit of **Sif** still inside her, unexpec-

tedly saved the day! Returning to Asgard, Jane discovered that she could transform to Sif — and a good thing, too, for Thor needed all the help he could get! **Odin** had gone mad, and **Karnilla**, Sif, and the other Asgardians were needed to keep him from drawing the Odinsword and ending the universe! In a huge 250th issue climax, we discovered it was not Odin at all, but **Mangog**, posing as Odin! So where was the Allfather? The quest for Odin led Thor first into **Hela's** realm, then to the realm of the Trolls, where **Ulik** sought his help against the monstrous **Trogg**! As 1976 ended, Thor had still not found his father. The THOR ANNUAL meanwhile presented a battle that rocked the heavens! Thor found himself fighting Hercules in a war between the Norse and Greek Gods!

In the pages of AVENGERS itself, Thor and the Assemblers joined with the **Two-Gun Kid** and the other Old West heroes, as they at long last defeated **Kang**! Meanwhile, Cap, the **Beast**, and other Avengers left in the present were captured by the Brand Corporation, whose corporate head, **Hugh Jones**, was dominated by the evil of the Serpent Crown! **Patsy Baxter** discovered and donned the outfit of the **Hellcat** for the first time, but before she could use it, Jones employed the power of the Crown to dispatch the Avengers to the world of the **Squadron Supreme**! In "Crisis On Other-Earth," the Avengers first fought the Squadron, then helped them free their Earth from domination by the Serpent Crown, then returned to our world for the showdown with Brand! An epic battle between Thor and **Orka**, the Human Killer Whale, ended the saga, with co-creators **Steve Englehart** and **George Perez** needing an issue or two to catch their breaths!

Those breath-catching issues featured **the Assassin** vs. the Avengers, in a tale initially prepared for an ish of GIANT-SIZE AVENGERS, and a quick reprint flashback to the time the Avengers first changed their membership. For now, the order changeth again! The new Avengers were to be: Vision, Wanda, Beast, Iron Man, Cap, **Wasp**, and **Yellowjacket** — and no time was wasted throwing them into action! First, they traveled to New Orleans, where the **Black Talon** had brought **Wonder Man** back to life as a zombie! Then, **the Living Laser** seized the Serpent Crown — one of those things that should just be kept locked away! — to use both Wonder Man and **Nuklo** against the Avengers, in a thriller that continued into the AVENGERS ANNUAL! **The Whizzer** returned late in the year, but not in time to help the team against **Attuma** and **Tyrak** — who captured our heroes and shackled them in slave collars! They were to be sent against **Namor** as pawns, in a crossover with SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP!

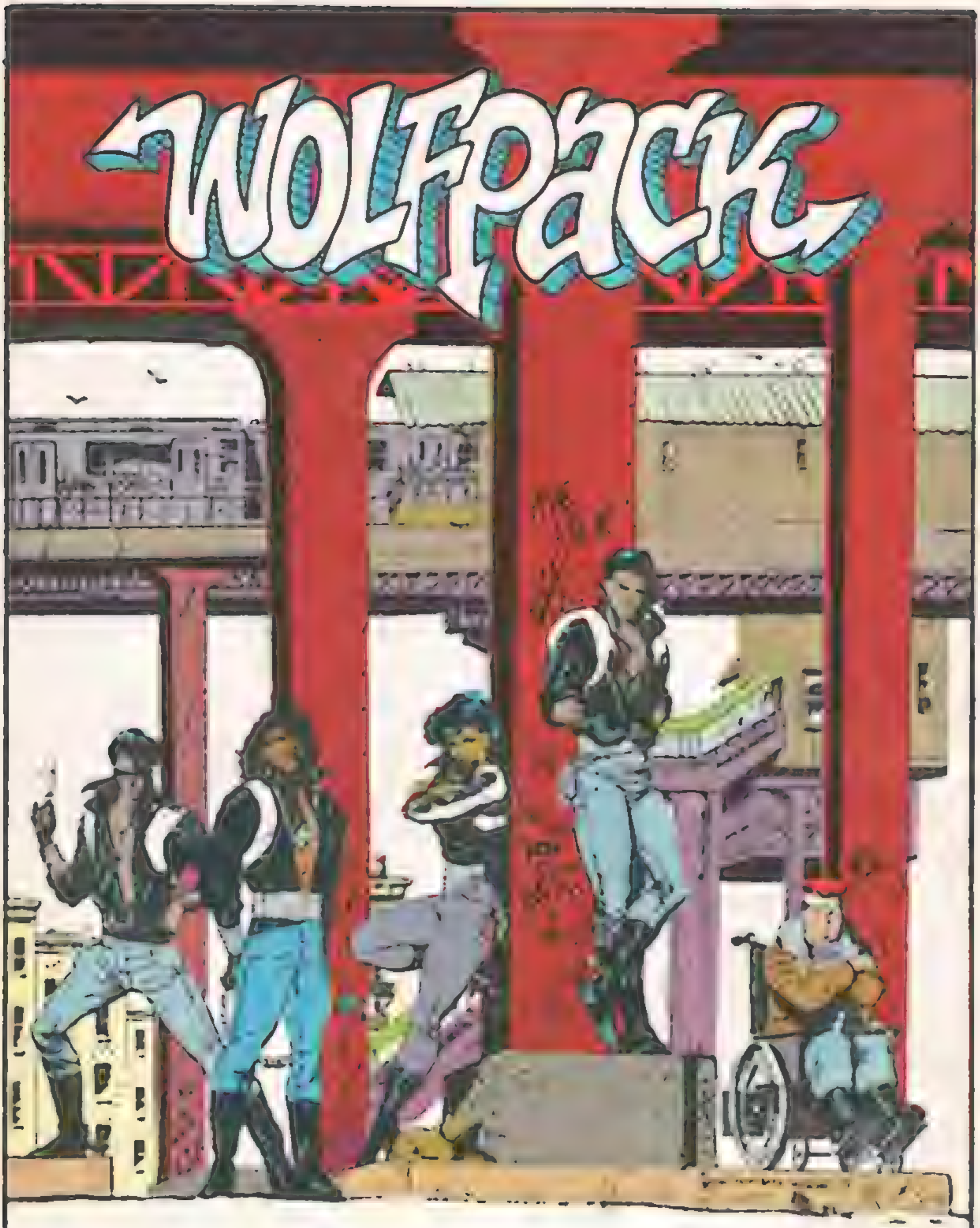
In SVTU, Dr. Doom seized Hydrobase, but Namor was still the unwilling slave of Doom. Could the **Fantastic Four** cure Namor of the chemical ailment that kept him Doom's hostage? They sure tried, but you'll never believe who stopped them from invading Latveria — **Henry Kissinger**! Doom had just signed a non-intervention pact with the U.S., which made the FF's presence in Latveria illegal! But the premiering new hero, **the Shroud**, wasn't going to be bothered by all that! He was out to prove himself a super hero by defeating Doom, and seemingly did kill him, leaving Namor to escape from Latveria and return to Hydrobase. But not only did Doom survive, he was rescued by **Namorita** and **Tamara**, who returned him to Hydrobase as well. So it was all one big happy family at Hydrobase, when Attuma and Tyrak attacked, using the slave-collared Avengers as their army! It was an all-out slugfest that wrapped up in the first 1977 episode of AVENGERS — and lucky for me, too! After describing all this 1976 action, I need to rest for at least a month!

*—Brian Nelson*

## MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

If I didn't already own all these action-packed sagas, I'd have to go pick up the back issues right now — assuming my wallet allowed for it! Here's what you can expect to pay for the mags we covered this month at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember, this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition.

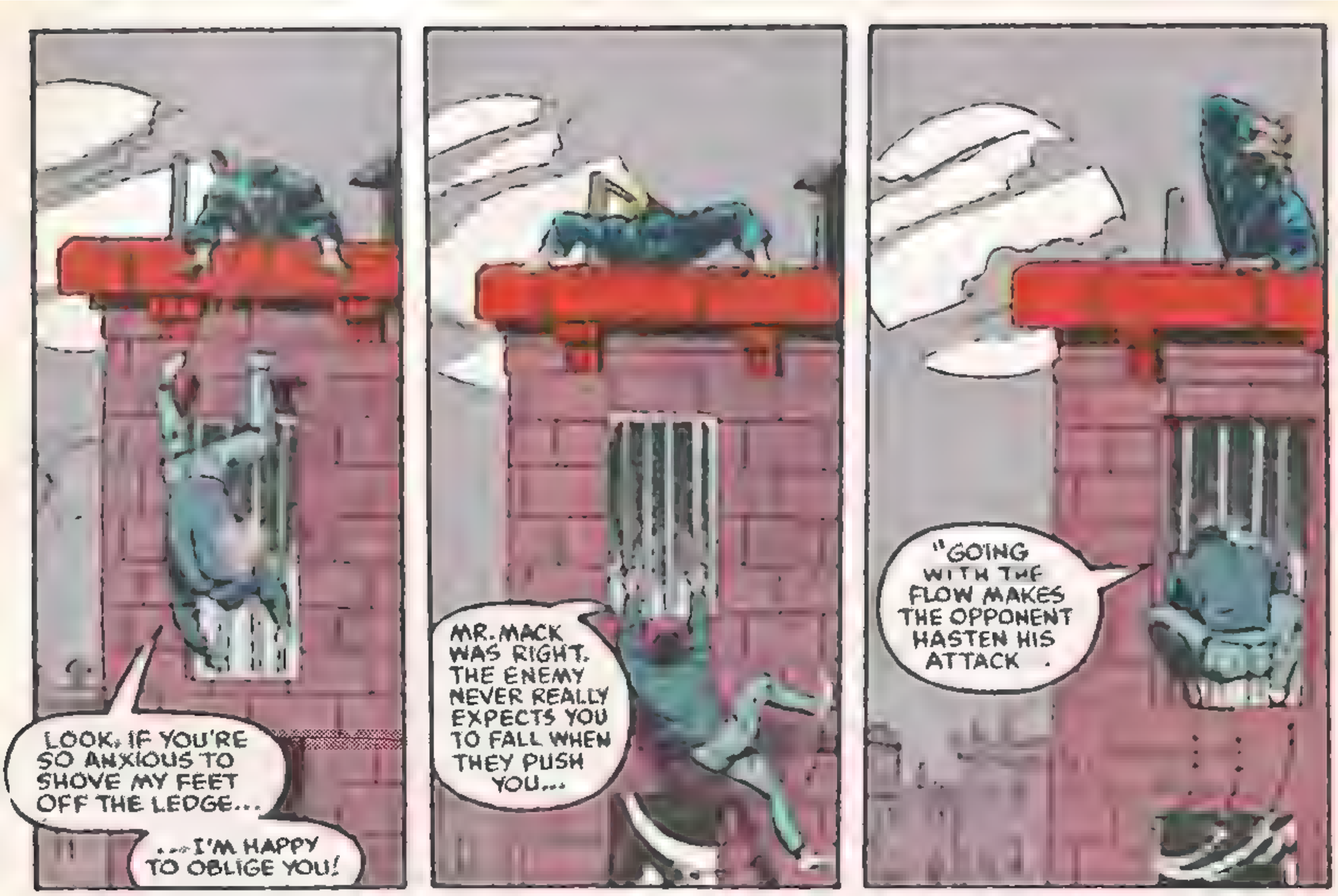
| | CONDITION | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Good | Fine | Mint |
| ■ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** | | | |
| 152-160 | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| 161 (guest appearance **Nightcrawler**) | .50 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| 162 (g.a. **Nightcrawler, Punisher**) | 1.00 | 3.00 | 6.00 |
| 163 | | .50 | 1.00 |
| **ANNUAL** 10 | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| ■ **AVENGERS** | | | |
| 143–149 (144: 1st **Hellcat**) | .35 | 1.10 | 2.20 |
| 150 (new line-up begins) | .40 | 1.20 | 2.40 |
| 151-154 (151: **Wonder Man** returns) | .40 | 1.10 | 2.20 |
| **ANNUAL** 6 | .50 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| ■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** | | | |
| 193-199, 201-204 | | .30 | .60 |
| 200 | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| **ANNUAL** 3 | | .60 | 1.20 |
| ■ **IRON MAN** | | | |
| 82–85, 88–90 | | .60 | 1.20 |
| 86–87 (**Blizzard**) | .35 | 1.00 | 2.00 |
| 91–93 | .25 | .75 | 1.50 |
| **ANNUAL** 3 | .30 | .80 | 1.60 |
| ■ **MARVEL TEAM-UP** | | | |
| 41–50 | | 60 | 1.20 |
| 51–52 | | .50 | 1.00 |
| **ANNUAL** 1 (w/new X-MEN) | 1.50 | 4.50 | 9.00 |
| ■ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** | | | |
| 1 | 1.00 | 3.00 | 6.00 |
| ■ **SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP** | | | |
| 4–9 (5: **Shroud** intro) | | .30 | .60 |
| ■ **THOR** | | | |
| 243–254 | | .40 | .80 |
| **ANNUAL** 5 | | .50 | 1.00 |




It's been over two years in the making — a story that got so big it *had* to begin as a Graphic Novel!

Making its debut this fall is WOLFPACK, a gritty, intrigue-filled action series created by G.I. JOE writer **Larry Hama** and SUPERBOXERS penciler **Ron Wilson**.

WOLFPACK is the story of a South Bronx street gang which becomes involved in a two-thousand year old battle to maintain the balance between good and evil in the world. The story ties in to ancient Jewish legend, a covenant that says that there will always be ten righteous men in the world whose mission is to fight against the human servants of evil, known as the


LOOK, IF YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS TO SHOVE MY FEET OFF THE LEDGE...
...I'M HAPPY TO OBLIGE YOU!
MR. MACK WAS RIGHT. THE ENEMY NEVER REALLY EXPECTS YOU TO FALL WHEN THEY PUSH YOU...
"GOING WITH THE FLOW MAKES THE OPPONENT HASTEN HIS ATTACK

**Nine**. The Nine's sole purpose is to bring down **the Ten**, thus allowing evil to dominate the world.

The **Wolfpack's** origin will be told in the Graphic Novel, with the regular series picking up where the Graphic Novel leaves off. The beginnings of the Wolfpack date back some two-thousand years to a lost tribe of Israel that settled in China. One member of this tribe was also one of the Ten righteous men, who left to form the first Wolfpack to fight the evil Nine.

The Wolfpack of those days was a team of highly-trained ninja warriors who used guerilla tactics to strike at the Nine. The battle continued for the next two-thousand years with the Wolfpack failing to significantly check the power of the Nine. All seemed lost until fate stepped in in the unlikely shape of **Mack** — a cook on a gunboat patrolling the Yellow River in China, just before World War II. Mack encounters and defends an aging ninja master who passes on the legacy of the Wolfpack to him. Mack eventually ends up as a building superintendent in the South Bronx and that's where the story really begins!

Over the centuries the Nine steadily grew in power until they have now become the owners of a multi-million dollar international corporation. Their power is money and they have an awful lot of it.

Mack, fully aware of the growing powers of the evil Nine, recruits a gang of street kids who, for their own reasons, want to help clean up the South Bronx where the Nine's influence is being brutally felt. Mack doesn't give them powers, he gives them a mission, and what they lack in strength they make up for with training. But how can a gang of street kids hope to fight against a mega-corporation? Under the tutelage of Mack, the kids learn to strike guerilla-style — as did their predecessors — in order to do the maximum damage with the minimum amount of risk. The Graphic Novel will chronicle this and the Wolfpack's initial confrontations with the Nine. In the series the Wolfpack will carry their urban guerilla battle onto the Nine's home turf.

A distinctive feature of the seies is that it will happen in real time, thus when a month passes in our time a month will also pass in the comic. This means that characters will grow older, characters will die, and new characters will be introduced as time goes by.

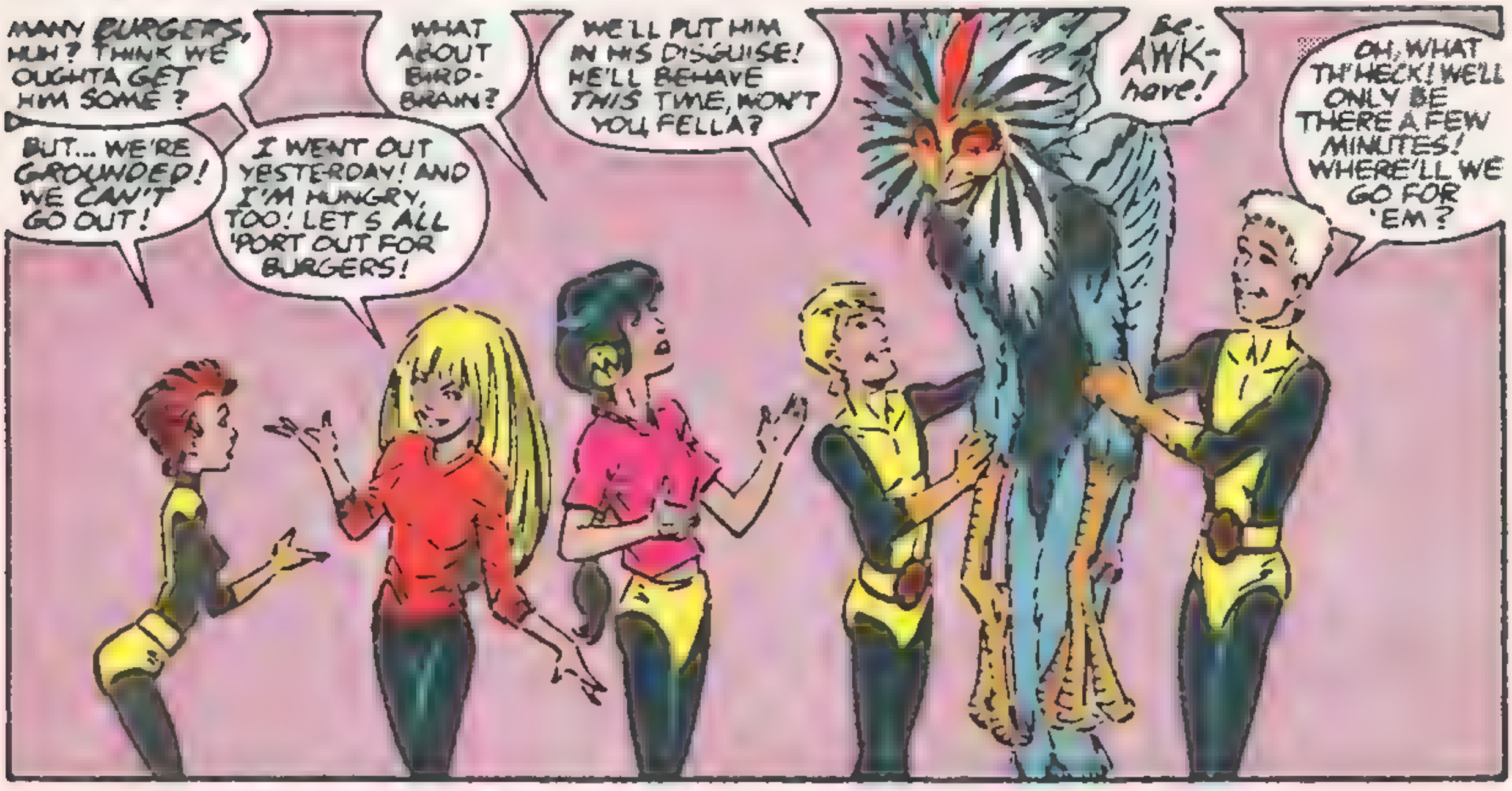
One of the themes of the book will be the moral repercussions of what the kids do. Are they vigilantes, taking the law into their own hands? If so, then are they any better than the people they oppose? An upcoming story dealing with drug-trafficking will also bring the Wolfpack face-to-face with the consequences of their actions when the result is the death of one of their enemies.

The tone of the series is gritty, gutsy, and realistic. If you're looking for teenage ninjas, intelligent, thought-provoking stories, action, intrigue and adventure, then WOLFPACK is for you!

*—Jason R.L. Balgobin*

# I'M A MUTANT, HE'S A MUTANT, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A MUTANT TOO?

**Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016**


MANY BURGERS, HUH? THINK WE OUGHTA GET HIM SOME?
BUT... WE'RE GROUNDED! WE CAN'T GO OUT!
I WENT OUT YESTERDAY! AND I'M HUNGRY, TOO! LET'S ALL 'PORT OUT FOR BURGERS!
WHAT ABOUT BIRD-BRAIN?
WE'LL PUT HIM IN HIS DISGUISE! HE'LL BEHAVE THIS TIME, WON'T YOU, FELLA?
AWK-hoo!
OH, WHAT TH'HECK! WE'LL ONLY BE THERE A FEW MINUTES! WHERE'LL WE GO FOR 'EM?

**This month's inquisitive letter column title comes to us courtesy of Jolyon Silversmith of Rockville, MD. Thanks, Jolyon! But you know, with the Fall of the Mutants in X-MEN, X-FACTOR, and THE NEW MUTANTS, we're not really sure that we'd want to be mutants right now. Still, an extra couple of arms *would* come in handy in making the deadline on this letter column . . .**

**While the rest of you are debating whether or not you'd want to be mutants, here's something else for you to think about: We need a brand new title for this letter column each and every month. So give it some thought, jot down your best ideas, and send 'em on in!**

**Hmm . . . Would we get to meet Dazzler, Jolyon?**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I am a great fan of Marvel Comics, but I feel that you are missing a title. I would like to see a comic where every issue or so would have a different artist. The artists would do their favorite character(s) in stories. You could call it something like MARVEL WORKS. Please consider this title!!

Michael Ponchot
Greenville, OH

**Not a bad suggestion, Michael. But actually, we already have a couple of series that might just be what you're looking for! One is SOLO AVENGERS; each issue contains not only a solo story starring Hawkeye, but also a second story about one of his fellow Avengers . . . with a different artist just about every time! The other series is our direct sales title, MARVEL FANFARE, which has already featured a multitude of artists (including John Byrne, Frank Miller, and George Perez) drawing everyone from the Hulk to the Black Widow to Thor's Aegardian pals, the Warriors Three! How's that for variety?**

Hey, Forbush-buds,

I was just curious: Are Walt and Weezie Simonson married? Who'd think that the **Hulk** was a mutie? Who killed off the vampires (not **Doctor Strange**; the writer)? Why? What's gonna happen to **Captain America** now that he's not Captain America? Have I seen the **Talking Heads** movie once too often? Are you going to print this letter? Do you like peanut butter and bannanna sandwiches? How do you spell "bannanna?" Why am I torturing myself like this? Can a letter get more stupid than this?

Print this, issue a challenge, and find out!

By the way, who is Irving Forbush's favorite polka artist?

Domino
103 Hunter Court
Goldsboro, NC 27530

**Boy, Domino, you sure asked a lot of questions. Sheesh, we're still trying to figure out whether or not we'd like to be mutants!**

**Okay, taking your questions in order:**

**Yes, they are: The guy in THE INCREDIBLE HULK #337, apparently. Roger Stern. Why not? Are you know by now, he's going to become**

**the Captain ... but who knows what's going to happen next? Could be. Yes. Only with avocado and ketchup milkshakes. The way you spelled it; "banana" is spelled with only one "n" at a time, though. Maybe because you like us. Anyone want to try?**

**And as for Irv's favorite polka artists, it's those Picasses of polka, Janes Wolcyzynsky and the Accordion Kings.**

**Next?**

Dear Marvel,

About a year and a half ago, Marvel U.K.'s CAPTAIN BRITAIN was cancelled and on the back page, it said plans were underway for the Captain to get his own monthly Marvel series in the U.S. Well, could you tell me if these plans are still underway because I'd rather be put out of my misery and be told that the idea had been scrapped than keep on waiting for it to happen. (I've been waiting since 1981, believe it or not.)

A Devoted Captain Britain Fan
Australia

**Well, A.D.C.B.F., your wait is almost over . . . sort of. There are no plans for an American CAPTAIN BRITAIN series in the near future, but look for him to be one of the founding members of EXCALIBUR! Be here next month when MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE finds out what you can expect in Marvel's newest mutant series!**

**What's happening?! Everything's suddenly gone yellow! Oh, it's just time for our LETTER OF THE MONTH. We were so busy thinking about whether or not we'd want to be mutants that we almost forgot: Every month, we pick a letter or two on a topic that we think will be of particular interest to Marveldom at large and print it against a peppy yellow background. Whew, what a relief.**

**This time, our Letter of the Month deals with a topic near and dear to all of our hearts: How to submit your material to Marvel.**

To whom it may concern,

I have a question relating to your MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK. I was wondering if you would consider giving some people another chance to turn in some samples. If so, what would be the deadline?

By the way, I think you're doing a terrific job with THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE Book of the Dead. As Stan would say, "Excelsior!"

Matt Smith
(Address withheld)

**Well, Matt, it is true that the Marvel Try-Out contest that went along with the TRY-OUT BOOK is over. In fact, you can see the work of the winning writer, penciler, inker, letterer, and colorist in the MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT WINNERS BOOK, on sale now! But that doesn't mean you can't send in samples of your work anyway! All you have to do is send your best work to Submissions Editor Adam Blaustein at the address at the top of this column.**

**A couple of points to keep in mind, though: Your submissions don't have to be taken from the TRY-OUT BOOK, but they should deal with established Marvel characters. If you're a writer, you should only submit short (1-2 page) plot synopses. If you're an artist, you should send something that shows panel-to-panel continuity; don't just send individual sketches.**

**For more guidelines, check out the MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK. And good luck!**

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I was wondering, when you say "we always read every letter and appreciate it," who exactly is "we?" **Jim Shooter**, Stan Lee, or who?

Chris Kubica
2700 N. Ullman
Appleton, WI 54911

**"We" are Devo — sorry, Chris. Actually, that's what's called the editorial "we." Y'see, even though we can't answer them all, our editors and writers do read and appreciate every letter they receive. After all, your letters tell us how you feel about what we're doing and show us how much you care.**

Dear MARVEL AGEnts,

I am writing about the format of the new book, SOLO AVENGERS. I say, if it's good enough for them, why not SOLO X-MEN?

What about it, Marvelites?

Jim Mroczkowski
14626 Logis Lane
Florissant, MO 63034

**We like it, Jim! How about the rest of you? Let us know! Meanwhile, we are working on a top-secret project with Wolverine. We'll tell you more as soon as we can!**

Dear Marvel-fun-atics,

You guys are really great and I mean it. Because you printed one of my letters in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #50, I now have a pen-pal, and it's all because you were nice enough to put my letter in your magazine. Well, I just thought I'd write and tell you how much I appreciate what you did and that Marvel is the best.

So until **Spidey** joins **the Avengers**, Make Mine Marvel.

Eric Hartman
13 Bluebella La
Levittown, NY 11756

**You're welcome, Eric! And speaking of making pen pals, we can't think of a better way to introduce this month's edition of . . .**

The MARVEL AGE PEN PALS CLUB! Every month, the Pen Pal Club section lists the names and addresses of Marvelites who want to correspond with their counterparts across the country and around the world. If you want to have your name listed here, simply send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics series to Marvel Age Pen Pals at the address at the beginning of this column.

And now, on to this month's pen pals!

Barbel Schmidt
Hermann-Entholt-Str. 1
2800 Bremen 61
WEST GERMANY
Age: 25
Favorites: X-MEN,
THE AVENGERS, THOR

Harris Newman
8 Honeywell Pl.
Willowdale, Ontario
M2L 1Y3
CANADA
Age: 12
Favorites: X-MEN, ALPHA FLIGHT,
THE PUNISHER

David Lawrence
4253 Dartmouth
Houston TX 77005
Age: 13
Favorites: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN,
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN,
FANTASTIC FOUR

Marc Restivo
354 Faircastle Ave.
Severna Park, MD 21146
Age: 13
Favorites: SPIDER-MAN,
DAREDEVIL, FANTASTIC FOUR

Valerie D'Orazio
611 Argyle Rd. Apt. 6M
Brooklyn, NY 11230
Age: 13
Favorites: X-FACTOR, G.I. JOE,
SPIDER-MAN

Fabrizio Almeida
15270 Raintree Dr.
Orland Park, IL 60462
Age: 12
Favorites: X-MEN, PUNISHER,
X-FACTOR

Darrel Bartok
1995 Meachum Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: SILVER SURFER,
DAREDEVIL, X-MEN

Ray Valerio
190 S. Craig Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91107
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR,
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

J.W. Warrick
7411 Pipers Creek
San Antonio, TX 78251
Age: 15
Favorites: All mutant titles,
THE AVENGERS, WEST COAST
AVENGERS

Ronald Curtis Morgan II
15519 Domart Ave.
Norwalk, CA 90650
Age: 22
Favorites: WEST COAST
AVENGERS, SILVER SURFER,
FANTASTIC FOUR

# MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Your scalp; we've seen **Kenneth Connell** place it there, but he was instructed not to apply it to inanimate objects, lower lifeforms, or the inside of his body.

2. **Tom Wolfe**, who's appeared both in the pages of DR. STRANGE, and THE INCREDIBLE HULK!

3. The group of psychically power paranormals, called **the ESPeople** in cover copy, that **David Landers** met in D.P. 7.

4. **Uri Geller** helped **DD** against **Mind-Wave**; and Geller exists in the New Universe, too — Ken Connell's mentioned him!

5. **The Troubleshooters** debuted just one page before their beautiful, resourceful leader, **Spitfire.**

6. **KISS** (that's the answer to the question, not an instruction!).

7. Dulles International Airport.

8. **The Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Players**, of NBC's Saturday Night Live! (**Nick Fury, the Black Widow**, and **Shang-Chi** have also fought with **Spidey** against **the Silver Samurai**, but we don't generally think of them as comedians . . . )

9. **Scotty, Mark Hazzard's** son.

10. **Dawn Geiger**, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE designer! (Hmmm — wonder how she handles a shield?)

11. McDonald's — obviously, **Tensen's** kind of place!

12. **Alice Cooper** — In a story produced, we should note, by MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's own **Jim Salicrup**! (I promised Jim I'd work him into one of these quizzes somehow . . . )

13. The **Washington Centurions** and the **Chicago Comets** — two names that the USFL didn't get around to!

14. **President Gerald Ford**! (You'd think a president would have better sense than to go near Hulkbuster Base, but then, we're talking about Ford, here . . . )

15. **Benjamin** appears in PSI-FORCE; he's the pet cat of **Kathy Ling**!

16. **Chris Claremont** recorded his own death in the last issue of MAN-THING; funny, it doesn't seem to have affected his writing . . .

17. Spitfire and the Troubleshooters guested in the second issue of STAR BRAND!

18. STRANGE TALES — and it lived up to its name, when **the Torch** and **the Thing** met **the Beatles**!

19. **Scuzz; Charly; Stephie; Randy; Jeffrey; Lenore; David.**

20. His wife, of course, lovely **Joanie Lee**!

# BEFORE THEY CLEAN THEIR ROOMS, THEY HAVE TO CLEAN THEIR STREETS!

TM & © 1987 Marvel Entertainment Group. All rights reserved.

BY LARRY HAMA

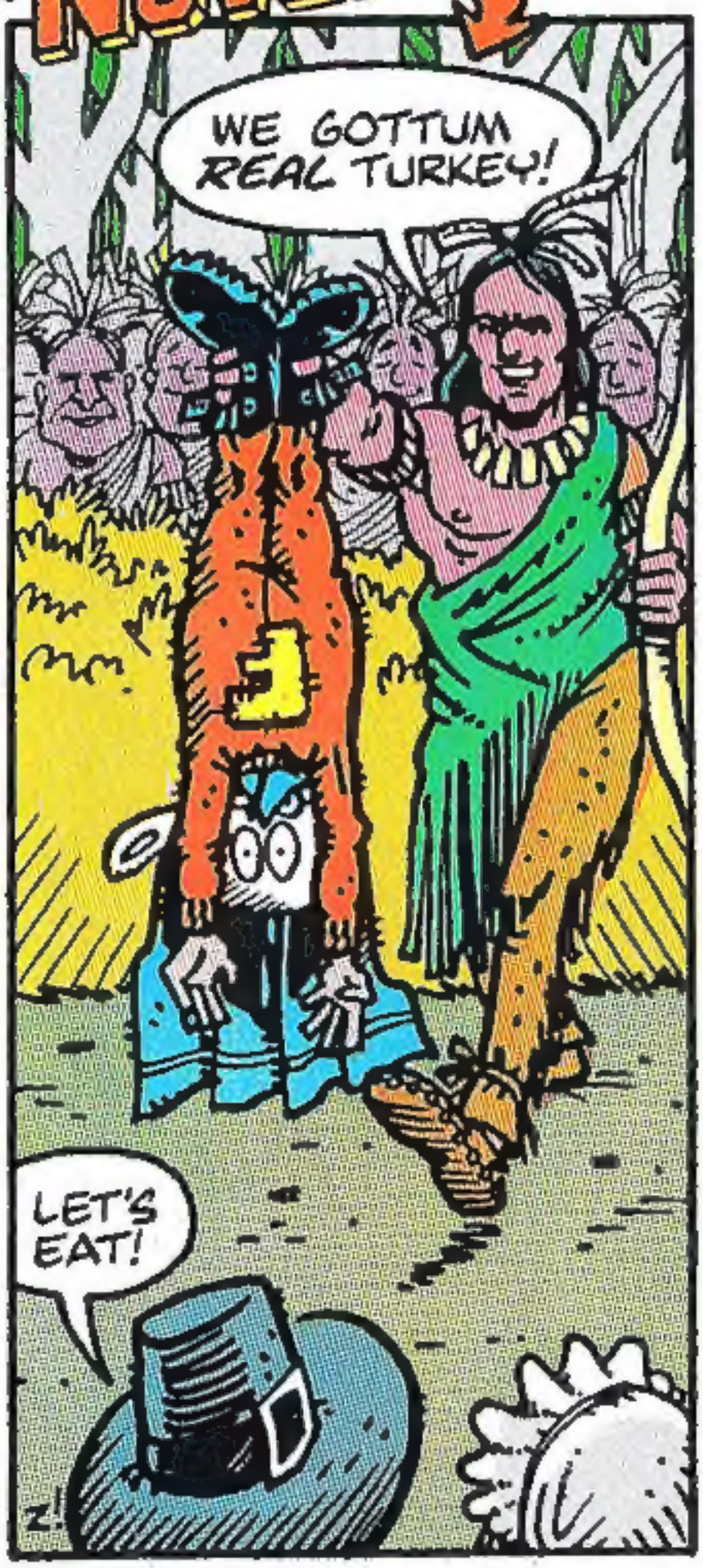
WOLFPACK™

AND RON WILSON

A GRAPHIC NOVEL ON SALE IN OCTOBER. A MONTHLY SERIES STARTING NEXT MARCH. FROM MARVEL®

# THE 1987 MARVEL AGE® CALENDAR

## The Best Roast IN November



**MIKE CARLIN**—WRITER **RON ZALME**—ARTIST **PAUL BECTON**—COLORIST

AY

WEDNESDAY

4

THURSDAY

5

FRIDAY

6 WHAT IF... DAREDEVIL COULD SEE?

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME I'VE BEEN DRESSING LIKE *THIS*?!

7

SATURDAY

11 IT'S *DAVE COCKRUM'S* BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, *CARL POTTS!*

12

13 ANOTHER FRIDAY THE 13th!

NO SWEAT.

14

TEN-*NUT!*

YESTERDAY WAS *DOUG MURRAY'S* BIRTHDAY!

17

REMEMBER THAT OLD BORSCHT BELT COMEDIAN, *CY HAWK?*

18

BUT SERIOUSLY...

19

WE DON'T EITHER.

THE *LAST* TV SHOW WE'D LIKE TO SEE...

20 ...WHEEL OF FANTASTIC FORTUNE!

WHOOPSIE!

4

21

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, *CHRIS CLAREMONT!*

WHOOPS! YA CAUGHT ME!

X-FACTOR

25

HAPPY THANKS-GIVING, TRUE BELIEVERS!

26

JUST 'CAUSE MILGROM RHYMES WITH PILGRIM!

YESTERDAY WAS *DAN GREEN'S* BIRTHDAY!

27

28

CLANK! ?

KLANG!

TINK! BONK! KLANK! TANG KLUNK! BANG! CLANG!

BOO HOO HOO